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Communist Parties-CPSU Union To Hold Congress

PM1907152193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jul 93
p 2

[Aleksandr Golovenko: "So As Not To Fall One By One"]

[Text] The Congress of the Peoples of the USSR will meet in Moscow in the second half of September. This was stated at yesterday's conference of leaders of republic communist parties belonging to the Union of Communist Parties-CPSU. The view was expressed that the bandit attacks on Russian border troops on the Tajik-Afghan border is yet further evidence of the utter catastrophe of the artificial dismemberment of the USSR to the benefit of world conspirators [mirovaya zakulisa]. Communists' task today is to prepare for the forum by uniting the broadest strata of the population, sociopolitical movements, and parties—all who recognize the criminal nature of the Belovezhskaya Forest accords. Only by working together is it possible to avert the catastrophe toward which the peoples have been led by the capitalizers and sovereignizers. The congress, according to the scheme of the organizers, should give a powerful impetus to the revival of a renewed Union.

Contact telephone number: 206-46-95.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 20 Jul

LD2007051493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0448
GMT 20 Jul 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS— Russian newspapers highlight the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, where Afghan mojahedin and Tajik Islamists attacked a Russian border picket on July 13.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI believes that the incident will have serious consequences for Russo-Afghan relations. The newspaper maintains that the armed attack on Russian border guards was an act of undeclared war. The newspaper writes that the far-reaching plans of the Tajik Moslem opposition have been revealed. The opposition "with the backing of the Afghan mojahedin tries to seize the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region and declare an independent Islamic republic there. Then, using it as a spring-board, the opposition will seek to launch an attack on Dushanbe in order to seize power in Tajikistan".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) points out the seamen noting that "a scrupulous analysis of the tragedy at border picket 12, as well as of the overall situation on the Tajik-Afghan border makes it possible to draw quite a definite conclusion. The Islamist armed opposition, together with the Afghan mojahedin, is carrying out a

large-scale operation to destabilise the situation in the republic and territorially divide Tajikistan".

TRUD is of the opinion that "the involvement of Afghan mojahedin in what is virtually a war against Russian border guards, the setting up of militants training camps on the territory of Afghanistan, and the formation of the so-called Tajikistan government-in-exile must be viewed by the international community as international terrorism with all the ensuing consequences".

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA reproaches the Russian Government with inaction in the face of an overt aggression on the part of Afghanistan. "The utter helplessness of executive organisations in the unconventional situation, as well as their reaction to what happened confirm once again that they are capable only of political bombast and unfounded ambitiousness in the struggle for power in their own country".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, analysing the development of events in the region recently, points out that "the years-long chain of political errors lead to the death of Russian border guards". Touching upon a plan, announced by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, for military assistance to Tajikistan to protect its borders, the newspaper asks whether Russia is being drawn into another Afghan war.

PRAVDA reports that "a people's veche (assembly) took place on Makhimov square in Sevastopol in view of the Russian parliament's decision on the city's status". Those present by an open vote elected a Russian people's council of Sevastopol, including 11 leaders of public organisations, the newspaper writes. The veche adopted an address to the Russian parliament in a request to officially recognise the people's council as an authority which is called upon to ensure the enactment of the Russian parliament's decision on the Russian federal status of Sevastopol.

TRUD's political news analyst Yuriy Lepsky, in an big article contributed to the newspaper, examines the position of Russians in immediate neighbour countries. In the first instalment of the article, he describes the life of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic states.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA surveys the "property redistribution" process which is getting under way in Russia. The newspaper examines in detail "a document which is being actively pushed through by interested quarters in the government and which has already been officially supported by 'Chernomyrdin's man', Oleg Soskovets, the first vice-premier". The matter concerns a plan to amalgamate a half of Russian enterprises into 30-100 industrial groups through a transfer of the controlling interest of the enterprises to the management of groups". The newspaper writes about possible socioeconomic consequences of the establishment of such financial and industrial groups. It emphasises that "if the document is signed, property will turn up in the hands of the nomenklatura" (privileged appointees to high posts).

More Reaction to India Missile Technology Agreement**Revision Contract Likely**

LD1907202793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By correspondent Sergey Goryachev from Washington, including recording of comments by Yuriy Koptev, director general of Russian Space Agency; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The contract for Russian supply of rocket technologies to India will probably be revised. This became known after Russia and the United States, at their talks, reached agreement on nonproliferation of rocket technology.

[Goryachev] Differences between Russia and the United States with regard to the contract have constituted a serious test in relations between the two countries. Because of these differences, Viktor Chernomyrdin cancelled his July visit to the United States.

The contract, concluded by the Russian Space Agency, envisaged the sale to India of cryogenic rocket engines, as well as technologies, worth about \$150 million. The Americans claimed that this contravened international regulations on supervision over proliferation of rocket technologies. Russian spokesmen kept saying, even at the highest level, that this was not the case. Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton discussed the problem in Tokyo, and it now seems that the differences have been settled. Yuriy Koptev, director general of the Russian Space Agency, has told us that as a result of this the contract with India will be revised.

[Koptev] Russia will meet its commitments with regard to the number of cryogenic stages and engines that India will require. But it looks as though the contract will have to be amended with regard to supplying technologies and production facilities.

[Goryachev] While official U.S. spokesmen describe the agreement with Russia as a joint success, the local press does not feel bound by the rules of diplomatic etiquette. Some observers are openly talking about Russian capitulation under U.S. pressure. The head of the Russian delegation sees it differently.

[Koptev] What we have got today is Tajikistan, where a Scud missile can appear any moment from Afghanistan. On the other hand we see a lot of instability in the territories that used to be a part of the Soviet Union. It is only natural that in these conditions our policy and our interests have to be revised, and our responsibility for keeping the world a peaceful place increases.

[Goryachev] For a year Russian spokesmen persistently argued that the contract with India did not contravene international rules. It is fortunate that in the end common sense got the upper hand. It is unfortunate, though, that this has taken so long.

'Beneficial Compromise' Viewed

PM2007090793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[Vladimir Nadein report: "First Serious Dispute Between Russia and the United States Ends in Beneficial Compromise. V. Chernomyrdin Will Presumably Visit the United States at the End of July"]

[Text] Washington—U.S.-Russian talks on the terms of the sale of Russian rocket engines and technology to India were not completed until late Thursday [15 July] night. The dispute ended in a compromise, the principles of which were agreed by the presidents of the two countries during their meeting in Tokyo.

This paves the way for an official visit to the United States by Russian Premier V. Chernomyrdin. All the signs suggest that he and Vice President Gore will sign documents on the two countries' long-term cooperation in the space sphere in Washington as early as the end of July.

Although officials of both delegations were extremely sparing of running commentaries, a Russian Embassy spokesman in a private conversation expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the talks. Sources close to the U.S. side made more substantial leaks, since THE WASHINGTON POST's final edition cites details of the deal that was reached.

U.S. laws required the U.S. government to adopt sanctions against countries violating the regulations on the nonproliferation of nuclear missile weapons. In concluding their deal two years ago Russians and Indians asserted its wholly peaceful nature. Both sides also accused the United States of wanting to monopolize the market in state-of-the-art technologies for strictly commercial advantage.

According to THE WASHINGTON POST report, the Russian side retains the right to deliver to India rockets which will be used under international control for launching peaceful facilities, in particular meteorological and communications satellites. However, Russia will reexamine the terms of the contract it concluded with Delhi and exclude from it the transfer of missile know-how.

The Americans insistently persuaded the Kremlin that removing strict secrecy from Russia's missile know-how could prove dangerous for Russia itself—not in such a long-term prospect either, bearing in mind the instability of India itself. In addition, they demonstrated the advantages of long-term cooperation with the highly developed West, which will not only bring political benefits, but will also provide incentives and money for the development of the entire space complex inherited by Russia from the USSR.

Despite the obvious benefits for Russia of the agreement concluded in Washington, it is painfully open to criticism for disregarding national prestige. Many representatives of the Moscow political elite viewed this dispute as a precedent for new, nonideological conflicts between Russia and the United States. There was a real fear that considerations of prestige could gain the upper hand over political and economic realities.

This was probably the consideration which prompted President Yeltsin to replace Shokhin, the politician, in the post of delegation leader with Koptev, the technical pragmatist. Yuriy Koptev heads the Russian Space Agency which, it is assumed, will derive great benefits from cooperation with the United States in this sphere.

The launch of U.S. space satellites with the aid of Russian rockets and the Americans' use of Russian experience in keeping human beings in space for long periods could bring Russia total revenue calculated at \$700 million. The deal with India is worth \$350 million.

One Russian diplomat, speaking under conditions of anonymity, expressed also the conviction that the agreement reached could quickly lead to the removal of restrictions on the delivery of Russian commodities to the West, about which President Yeltsin spoke in Tokyo.

Initial reports on Delhi's reaction attest to indignation at Washington's steps. The Indians accuse the United States of blackmail and of exploiting Russia's economic situation in order to strike deals on its own terms.

'Compromise or Capitulation'

PM2007102193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jul 93
pp 1, 3

[Vladislav Drobkov report: "Compromise Or Capitulation? Russia and United States Reach Agreement on Nonproliferation of Missile Technology That Americans Consider Victory for Themselves"]

[Text] Washington, 19 Jul—After a series of exhausting talks the delegation led by Yu. Koptev, general director of Russia's Space Agency, reached agreement with the U.S. Administration on the nonproliferation of missile technology. The Russian delegation hopes that this will promote the development of cooperation between the two countries in the conquest of space. However, something else is more important for the Americans. After putting up lengthy opposition, Russia has agreed to Washington's demand for it to freeze implementation of a contract with India to supply it with cryogenic rocket engines.

The result of the talks is that a possibility is emerging for our booster rockets to be used to put U.S. space communications satellites into orbit and also for Russia to take part in developing the U.S. orbital station Freedom. What is more, Russian cosmonauts are to travel onboard the U.S. Shuttle and U.S. astronauts are to use our spaceships.

It is no accident that I single out the word "possibility." The U.S. space research program is now being subjected to tough cuts. So involvement in the U.S. space programs may prove a "bird in the bush" for Russian space exploration. And Russia may lose the "bird" that it had in the hand—the contract to supply India with cryogenic rocket engines and peripheral technology. According to U.S. statements, Moscow promised to "review" the contract with India on Washington's terms.

Thus, in addition to tens or maybe even hundreds of millions of dollars, Russia may also lose its once-firm reputation as a reliable partner in carrying out space research. And along with it future potential contracts.

The question also arises of confidence in Russian politicians—including President B. Yeltsin himself—who recently demonstrated that the Indian deal is not a breach of the missile nonproliferation regime and, moreover, said with such emotion that a "third country" would not succeed in imposing its terms on such great powers as Russia and India...

The hypothesis I made in PRAVDA that B. Yeltsin might give way to "friend Bill" Clinton on the question of the missile deal at the meeting with the G-7 in Tokyo seems to have been prophetic; it was owing to this deal that Russian Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin's visit to the United States in July was effectively canceled. "Boris and Bill" did indeed discuss this problem in Tokyo. And at a press conference there Clinton promised journalists extremely optimistically that "next week you may get an answer regarding the state of the talks."

On his return to Moscow B. Yeltsin replaced the Russian delegation head at the "space" talks with the Americans. Yu. Koptev was appointed to replace Vice Premier A. Shokhin, who had probably proved too uncompromising.

People in Washington do not conceal their delight at the outcome of the latest round. "Bowing to intense U.S. pressure Russia agreed Friday to stop implementation of the 350-million contract to supply India with modern rocket engines and peripheral technology," THE WASHINGTON POST attests. "The transfer of missile technology to India will be canceled under pressure from the United States," THE NEW YORK TIMES echoed.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State L. Davis, the U.S. delegation head, said at a briefing on the results of the talks that Russia had agreed to freeze implementation of its agreement with India to supply the latter with rocket engines until more talks have been held with the Indian side. Russia also agreed to start complying as of 1 November this year with procedures for verifying the nonproliferation of missile technology adopted by the United States and its partners.

In response to these concessions Washington agreed not to introduce the promised sanctions against Russian and Indian missile-space departments and enterprises.

There is now every indication that V. Chernomyrdin will be able to come to the United States. He is expected to visit at the start of August.

U.S. Motivated by 'Mercantile Interests'

LD1907183593 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov]

[Text] At talks in Washington, Russia and the United States have reached agreement not to proliferate missile technology. In his commentary, Vladislav Kozyakov writes:

Though the stumbling block at the talks was the contract of the Russian Space Agency to supply two cryogenic [as heard] rockets to India, the main outcome is that Russia has now officially associated itself with the international effort to control missile technology. Up to now, Moscow only supported the principles of this agreement. Now an understanding has been reached to bring Russia into the control regime as of the first of next November. Hence, there has been progress on one of the most important ways of strengthening international security in this post-Cold War period. Nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and missile technology is the area in which any barrier is of major significance. According to experts, the number of nations possessing ballistic missiles could reach 25 by the end of the century. Then it will be far more difficult to check proliferation.

The understanding between Moscow and Washington at the talks just over, however, leaves not only a feeling of satisfaction, but perhaps that is true of all compromises. One must also feel regret that Washington could not be persuaded that essentially Russia's deal with India to sell cryogenic rockets is within the control regime for missile technology. Irrefutable facts were presented to show that the rockets could not be used to deliver nuclear weapons, that Russia's Security Ministry has limited use for them for many technical reasons, and that their purpose is to boost satellites into orbit where communication and telecommunication satellites are usually deployed.

These were sound arguments, the more so as the U.S. themselves had earlier offered India such technology without construing this as a breach of the nonproliferation regime. Let me note that according to a provision of the international agreement on the nonproliferation regime, the principles of the agreement are not designed to put obstacles in the way of national space programs, as long as such programs do not contribute to the creation of delivery systems for nuclear weapons. India intends to use the Russian supplies for its programs for the peaceful utilization of outer space.

Judging by reports, the understanding reached in Washington stipulates that the United States will refrain from the sanctions it threatened to impose on Russia and India, and will let Russia take part in contract bids for commercial launching of satellites. But one does have

the feeling that Washington's approach was partly motivated by mercantile interests.

Commentary on Agreement

LD1907181693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1420 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Reports from Delhi say that while expressing displeasure at Russia's refusal to supply it with cryogenic engine technology, India directs most of its criticism at the United States, for what the Indian side regards as putting pressure on Russia. This subject is quite topical, and therefore Mayak cannot possibly let it pass. Here is our commentator Viktor Levin.

[Levin] It would appear on the surface that the criticism levelled at the United States for exerting pressure, and at Russia for yielding to it, is to some extent justified. While the complicated process of negotiations was under way, the Americans were openly voicing their displeasure at the Russian-Indian agreement, and loudly threatening Russia with sanctions for, as they claimed, violating the international regulations on supervision over non-proliferation of rocket technologies.

Leaving the essence of the matter aside for a while, I would not shirk from saying that the statements made by the U.S. side smacked of diktat, and one could discern in the voices from Washington the notes typical of those who rely on blunt force rather than on sound reasoning. In general, I get the impression that American politicians—I would not say all of them, but it seems that there are many—take the developments of the last few years and the changes in the international situation as their, i.e. the United State's, victory in the cold war. Therefore, regarding themselves as the only superpower, they are willing to lecture all and sundry with even more zeal and persistence, or maybe even to order everyone about.

This by no means pertains only to Russia. I happen to know that the superpower habits and ways of the United States cause deep-seated displeasure in West Europe as well. This is not by any stretch of imagination an example of new political thinking, and I am sure that the United States will not win any laurels through this.

Now to the essence of the issue of Russia's supply of cryogenic engines to India. International regulations on supervision over nonproliferation of rocket technologies are no joking matter. Experts in military strategy are seriously concerned about the threat of nuclear weapons and means of their delivery spreading far and wide. Rear Admiral Sheaffer, head of U.S. Navy intelligence, is convinced that some time this decade someone somewhere will actually use nuclear weapons for real. And, the rear admiral emphasizes, it will be neither the Russians nor the Americans.

According to intelligence services, nine countries at present possess nuclear weapons, while officially there are but five nuclear powers. Who are these other four,

and are there really just four? One way or the other, it looks as if both India and Pakistan are among them. Experts believe that there was a moment back in 1990 when the world stood on the verge of a nuclear war. Pakistan then put its nuclear forces on red alert, and India prepared to make a matching counterstrike. So what I would like to know is whether it is in Russia's interests to pour oil on fire.

At the talks with the Americans, Russia's stance was quite clear: If it transpires that the agreement with India in any way violates the rocket technology nonproliferation regulations, Russia will not go ahead with it. This stands to reason: It is not Mexico or Canada who are creating nuclear weapons and means of delivery; the threat may emerge on the perimeter of Russia's own frontiers. What we got in the end is that we will supply India with cryogenic engines, but will not provide the technology, since this is covered by the nonproliferation regulations. It is in my view both unwise and unpatriotic to see this as just the result of U.S. pressure rather than Russia's concern about its own security.

Canceling India Deal Viewed

PM1907130793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 7

[Igor Kazakov article: "If India Does Not Get Engines, What Will Russia Get Out of It?"]

[Text] In the opinion of the informed sources who spoke to your ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent, the Russo-Indian contract to supply cryogenic boosters for Indian launchers could be canceled in the very near future. The sources believe that the Russian Space Agency delegation currently negotiating on the problem in the United States has to all intents and purposes come to "bury" the contract.

The sources note that the contract is opposed by Andrey Kozyrev, who is striving to build his own particular policy with the United States. The fact that the Russian delegation is headed by Yuriy Koptev also means a lot. Both A. Kozyrev and Yu. Koptev advocate the comprehensive development of Russo-U.S. contacts in the space sphere. But the U.S. side views the Indian contract as one of the main obstacles to developing our space partnership with the United States.

The U.S. side's main complaint is that the transfer of the engines violates the "Missile Technology Control Regime" (MTCR).

This agreement, which is supported by the world's leading powers, is aimed at regulating trade in the world market for strategic arms and their components. Its initiators designed it to prevent the acquisition by certain countries—mainly in the "Third World"—of the technologies needed for them to develop [sozdaniye] their own long-range ballistic missiles.

Signed by 18 states, including most European countries, the treaty does not, however, have the legal force of an official international agreement. The interested parties implement its provisions exclusively on a voluntary basis. Neither India nor Russia has signed the agreement.

In Washington's opinion, the technology which the Indians would receive could be used to develop [razrabotka] ballistic missiles. But specialists note that there has never been a case of missiles using engines powered by liquid oxygen and hydrogen. Moreover, the developments which Russia would be transferring to India under the contract were made back in the sixties.

In this situation it is clearly a question of elbowing Russia out of the Indian space market. Russian producers won the opportunity to supply engines to India after withstanding severe competition from French and U.S. firms by offering basically similar equipment at a lower price. Incidentally, when U.S. firms were battling for the contract, Washington representatives had no doubt about the expediency of the deal. We should recall that, to all intents and purposes, similar U.S. technology is currently being supplied to China.

It is interesting to follow the evolution of the Russian position in this conflict. While in India in January 1993 Boris Yeltsin stressed that the contract to deliver the cryogenic boosters would be carried out in full. But, during the Vancouver summit, Russian representatives stated that, given the U.S. side's concern, Moscow was prepared to hold talks with Delhi on reviewing the contract.

This June a delegation headed by Russian Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin refused to carry out the U.S. side's demand that Russia join the MTCR, as a result of which Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to the United States was postponed.

The U.S. and Russian presidents also examined the problem at a bilateral meeting in Tokyo. Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin agreed to "continue talks intensively and immediately." At virtually the same time Moscow was visited by a representative Indian delegation, which received assurances from its Russian partners that the contract would be carried out.

Currently the Clinton administration, which is being even tougher in pursuing the line of the previous Bush administration, is demanding that Russia join the "MTCR." In practice this means subordinating the actions of Russian organizations in the sphere of space cooperation with third countries to the provisions of U.S. legislation. Russia would have to consult with the United States each time that there were any question of delivering to third countries any technology that could be used to manufacture missiles. Moreover, Russia would have to inform the United States about all of its MTCR violations since 1990 and coordinate every step in the event of the transfer of missile technologies to CIS countries.

If Russia pledges to adhere to the MTCR provisions, the United States promises to give us access to the U.S. market for space services. Admittedly, the prospects for our cooperation in this sphere are very vague and there are more questions in this area than answers. And it seems that the U.S. side would gain far more from these contacts than Russian space departments.

Cancellation of the contract with India or implementation of it in a greatly truncated form—on which agreement currently seems to be being reached in Washington—would result in political as well as purely material losses. There would be a very big question mark over our cooperation with Delhi in the military-technical sphere, which promises to be very profitable and, incidentally, has very influential opponents in India. If the contract is torn up, they will gain an excellent trump card.

In conclusion, it should be added that the Americans have already handed the Russian representatives a list of 12 cases of our supposed deals with third countries which are of very great concern to them. So the case of the rocket engines for India may not be an exception but merely the start of a process that is "under way."

We would like to hope that in actual fact things will not go quite the way our informers have reported.

Correspondent Views Attack on Tajik-Afghan Border

LD1807213293

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1800 GMT on 18 July carries a 3-minute report by correspondent Aleksandr Ostrovskiy on last week's attack on the Russian border post on the Tajik-Afghan border. Reception is good.

Ostrovskiy begins by recalling the severity of the attack and its casualties. He states that the situation is still not exactly calm, that the occasional shots being fired by the opposition from near-by mountains can still be heard. Ostrovskiy then cites intelligence reports saying that Islamic fundamentalists chose Tajikistan as an outpost for their future offensive on the Central Asian republics and that a wide-scale offensive is already planned for early autumn.

Ostrovskiy continues, stating that by all appearances, counter measures were finally approved yesterday but that the military are understandably brief about this.

At this point in the report, Vladimir Semenov, commander in chief of the Russian ground forces, states: "The main task is to strengthen our border posts, first and foremost, the 201st division. No fresh contingent of Russian troops is to be brought in here. The defense minister decided to reinforce the 201st division and to bring it up to reasonable strength."

Following Semenov's comments, Petr Deynekin, commander in chief of the Russian Air Force says that: "We

will help with training and providing for actions which are taking place on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan."

Semenov is then heard to say: "I think that it is not just the future of the Tajik people which is at stake here but the future of all of our Central Asian republics."

Spokesman Gives Reasons for 'Unpreparedness'

PM1907095593 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 2

[Sergey Turchenko report: "On the Tajik-Afghan Border: Provocations Continue"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] While people in Moscow were investigating rights, Afghan and Tajik extremists carried out another rocket projectile attack on the 11th Border Guard Detail on the evening of 15 July. The Russian Federation Ministry of Security announced that the attack was repulsed and there were no casualties on the Russian side. But the situation is still deteriorating. What are the reasons for Russia's unpreparedness for such a grave turn of events? We put that question to Major General Andrey Chernenko, the Russian Federation Security Ministry's spokesman.

[Chernenko] There are global and specific reasons. The minister of security has been sounding the alarm for a long time now over the fact that full funding of border amenities and maintenance has effectively ceased in the country. At the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies he stressed that the government had allocated only 2 billion of the projected 7 billion [rubles] for this purpose. This kind of "savings" primarily affects the details' essential supplies. There is also another aspect. A clear and in some respects tough foreign policy doctrine is needed on the state border.

[Turchenko] But, in this specific instance, what prevented a tragedy being averted on 13 July?

[Chernenko] We knew that mujahidin and Tajik fighters were massing on the border. The details, including the 12th Detail, were prepared for provocations. It was only the powerful heavy gun attack from Afghan territory that came as a surprise. That was also what caused such terrible casualties. But it was the lack of appropriate military-political doctrine that deprived us of the right to collaborate with the Army in carrying out a preventive strike on the cluster of bandits. Commanders and chiefs should have that right. After all, the situation on the border is such that you cannot turn to the president or the Supreme Soviet every time.

UN To Be Approached Over Incidents

LD1907173793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Russia intends to turn to the United Nations in connection with events on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. RIA reports that this was said by

reliable sources within the Russian Foreign Ministry. Last Friday Emomali Rakhmonov, head of the Tajik Parliament, asked the UN secretary general to make use of the authority of this international organization to exert political pressure on Afghanistan.

Diplomat on Measures To Stabilize Situation

LD1907183893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1614 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gerogiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Jul—The Russian side has been actively working out measures to normalize the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, especially in the past month. Very specific work is being carried out on a package of necessary steps to create a stable situation in the region, a highly placed Russian diplomat, who wishes to remain anonymous, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

He pointed out that Russia is pursuing two aims: first and foremost, to engage in dialogue—the main and most effective measure—and second, to exert forceful pressure in order to guard the borders and the safety of servicemen. The diplomat said that conditions are currently being worked out for a meeting of four sides—Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Russia, and Uzbekistan—to discuss the problem, and added that each side's delegation is expected to include representatives of the most diverse interested departments.

He believes that there should be representatives not only of official Kabul at the meeting, but also of different groupings mostly active in the border regions of the north. The problem here, as before, the diplomat believes, is that "there is practically no" stable government or "reliable partner at talks who could speak on behalf of all forces" in Afghanistan now.

He emphasized that many countries understand Russia's measures to guard the border. He quoted Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who recently said that Russia has every right to take all necessary measures to secure the safety of its border guards. In addition, the Iranian minister called for "the removal of the initial cause of tension"—for the normalization of relations within Tajikistan.

Speaking about possible new steps to stabilize the situation, the diplomat said he believes it is necessary to draw in more of the international community and the countries in the region, Iran in particular, to settle the problem.

No Plans for Increased Presence

LD2007081393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Russian Security Minister Viktor Barannikov, who arrived in Dushanbe yesterday, is today flying to the Tajik-Afghan border in order to familiarize himself with

the situation first hand. In a talk with journalists after his arrival, the minister said, and I quote: There can be no question of any general increase in Russia's military presence in the territory of Tajikistan. In this connection, Barannikov warned certain mass media against dubious interpretations of the measures being taken in accordance with an instruction from Russian President Boris Yeltsin, related to recent events on the Tajik-Afghan border. The minister stressed that while strengthening the border, Russia is not taking any large-scale action against the Republic of Afghanistan and expressed the hope for a peaceful, political solution to the problem.

Russia Must Show 'Responsibility' in Central Asia

MK2007095093 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 35, 20 Jul 93 (signed to press 19 Jul) p 3

[Mikhail Leontyev article: "Will Russia Become Another Tajikistan?"]

[Text] Misgivings have recently been expressed in the democratic press on the subject of whether Tajikistan will become a new Afghanistan. One does not need any great foresight to say: It will, without fail, if Russian policy in Central Asia is the same as with respect to Afghanistan.

Then, the Moscow puppets in Kabul overthrew the secular Daud regime, and provoked in the hitherto stable and friendly Afghanistan an explosion of fundamentalist reaction for which not only our Central Asian neighbors, but all of Russia will now have to pay. After the pullout of Russian troops a fairly stable equilibrium was established in Afghanistan, where the last buttress of secular civilization and stability was the Najibullah regime—a regime ready for compromise and talks and capable of acting as the most representative side in these talks as long as Russia stood behind it. But eventually its "back proved to be exposed." Russia abandoned Afghanistan, although all that was needed from it was deliveries of diesel fuel and aviation kerosene—not free, of course.

Russia ditched Afghanistan, not because that was dictated by any ideological considerations, but simply because it had other, more important things to attend to

Russia's conduct was provoked by the inertia of our policy and by our new U.S. bosses' general indifference toward Afghanistan after the glorious Red Army left the country. The Americans could be understood: after all, they were interested in shifting fundamentalist expansion from a zone of their traditional interests to Central Asia, which is alien to them.

Filled to the teeth with armed, ethnically heterogeneous gangs, naturally inclined only to war (looking almost identical to the well-known Tajik "democrats"), Afghanistan has turned into a powder keg for its northern neighbors. There is nothing more for us to "catch" here,

but this does not mean that we must multiply the policy of "reasonable idiocy" further—to be more accurate—closer to Russia.

Russia, incidentally, in pursuing its policy in this region, originally took guidance from some well-known principles, the most popular of which was the "ostrich principle." Minister Kozyrev has not once visited the region where more than serious events, to put it mildly, were occurring, and where all parties to one ongoing conflict were making appeals to Russia. Experts believe that it was only Russia's indifference that enabled extremist groups, who ethnically represented 10 percent of the population, but virtually no one politically, managed to seize power in Tajikistan. And it was only the massacre which took a toll of 100,000 lives and millions of refugees that caused Russian politicians finally to wake up.

The Tajik regime, which came to power as a result of civil war, from the point of view of Russian democratic principles may not be an asset. Yet this is the sole power capable of ensuring the people's personal and property security, and therefore it is enjoying the support of the majority of the population. This regime and this population regard Russia as the sole guarantor against their physical extermination. When Emomali Rakhmonov says that "without Russia there would have been neither Tajikistan nor the Tajik people," this is not flattery, but a fact.

Secular regimes in Central Asia are relying on the local elite. Perhaps some might not like this elite, but this is what it is. The former elite was wiped out under the direct guidance of the Russian Bolsheviks, for which, incidentally, Russia bears moral responsibility. An alternative to these regimes is mob rule, whose ideological and geopolitical lines of activity will be determined by those southern neighbors which will be paying for it. As was the case with the Tajik "Islamodemocrats." On the other hand, the spread of expansive Islamic fundamentalism could with just the same reason be considered an internal affair of individual countries as the spread of expansive fascism.

And finally, what does Russia have to do with this? It is superfluous to talk about the purely practical interests: Russian markets, sources of raw materials, economic links, and so forth. Flows of refugees from Central Asian countries in the event of political chaos there will go precisely to Russia. Only a blind man can fail to see that Tajikistan will be followed by Kyrgyziya and Kazakhstan, and here Russia cannot possibly remain indifferent. That will be when Russia will really be steeped with blood. Or maybe the Kazakh border is "ours" and the Tajik border is not "ours"?

Apart from the natural Russian interests, however, there is something which in a long-term perspective could be even more important—Russian responsibility. The world community has a vested interest in maintaining stability. And this is the great powers' top-priority duty before the community in zones of their responsibility.

The question is about what sort of country is Russia: a small country shifting its responsibility onto the shoulders of powerful bosses. Or is it a great power? After all, the latter has been formalized by a seat on the Security Council. Or perhaps we should also pull out from there, following the advice by some of our "over-cautious" Russian democrats?

Democrats Call For Withdrawal of Troops From All Republics

LD1907105893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1044 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow July 19 TASS—The Russian Movement of Democratic Reforms, headed by former Moscow reformist mayor Gavril Popov, initiated a campaign for the withdrawal of Russian troops from all former Soviet republics, including Tajikistan.

Popov blasted the Russian Parliament for failing to give a political analysis of the latest developments on the Tajik-Afghan border where 26 Russian border guards were killed during an attack of the armed opposition.

According to the Constitution, the parliament is to discuss the dispatch of Russian troops abroad before the executive authority undertakes such a step, he told a press conference on Monday [19 July].

"Horrible misinformation has been carried out by mass media over the last four days" about the events on the Tajik-Afghan border. "The Army is again made responsible for political mistakes", Popov said comparing the situation with that which emerged during the war in Afghanistan.

"The political leadership is hiding behind the bushes, while the Army will have to bear responsibility like it was in Afghanistan", he warned.

He did not blame the president directly, saying only that Boris Yeltsin "is poorly informed", but blasted the Foreign Ministry which, according to him, "have been for long pursuing the wrong line in general".

"The main thing is to stop the passive observation of how we are being involved into a war", Popov said and proposed to create public committees which would work to withdraw Russian troops from all the CIS countries.

Dwelling on the referendum in the Russian-populated Estonian cities, Popov welcomed the plebiscite saying that "if the Russians in Estonia want to have an autonomy they should have it".

The dispute over the Black Sea Fleet base of Sevastopol should be solved jointly with the status of the Crimea. "If the Crimea as an autonomous republic within Ukraine will enjoy enough rights the problems of Sevastopol will considerable diminish", he said. The Black Sea Fleet,

according to Popov, does not represent "a considerable combat force for a long time already".

Commentary on Use of Force in Nearby States

PM1907135793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in
Russian 17 Jul 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Golts commentary under the rubric "Topic of the Week": "Is It Not Time for Russia To Use Force?"]

[Text] Russia's national tragedy (and how else can the loss of several dozen of our lads in Tajikistan be described) has raised in all its acuteness the question of what policy we are intending to pursue in respect of the "nearby foreign" states on whose territory combat operations are being conducted. And whether—this is the main thing now—the authorities are capable of conducting this policy. Our politicians' delayed reaction, inappropriate to the drama of the situation, to what is happening demonstrates how the legislative and executive powers have gotten bogged down in their squabble. Just think: There is fighting on the border, and our posts are in dire need of reinforcements and assistance by air. Meanwhile for two days the parliamentarians are completely unable to give the go-ahead for the full-scale use of the 201st division and the airlifting of mobile units...

In the end a decision was made. But who can guarantee that a similar tragedy will not be repeated tomorrow in another "hot spot," for example Abkhazia. After all, a full-scale war is going on there too. The sides participating are deaf to Moscow's appeals for a cease-fire. Even if they do agree to communicate with each other, it is in the language of ultimatums. There is a mutual desire to resolve problems by military means. And the Russian troops, adhering to neutrality in accordance with their orders, are in the conflict zone...

We should realize that the grim reality of our days is that we are becoming accustomed to something to which no self-respecting state has the right to become accustomed. To the fact that Russian soldiers are dying almost every day. Yes, Russia's military presence, even in the form in which it is exercised in the "nearby foreign countries," is playing the role of a stabilizing factor. But are we not paying too high a price for it?

There are two solutions to this problem. One is the quick and complete withdrawal of our troops from the conflict areas. But doing this would mean abandoning to the mercy of fate hundreds of thousands of Russians, Russian-speaking people, and even people who speak Russian badly but who are still used to seeking protection from Russia. And that is not all. There is no doubt whatsoever that, if our troops withdraw, the bloody conflicts will only intensify. And this means that very soon, in a situation of "transparent" borders which only exist on paper, the conflicts will arc across into Russian territory.

The other solution would be to keep the military presence. But at the same time to pluck up our courage and

assume the powers of guarantor maintaining peace throughout the post-Soviet area. Furthermore, this is not just be a question of ordinary peacekeeping, when the troops' mission boils down to ensuring the conditions of prior political agreements. This is a question of "compelling peace." With the use of force if need be.

I understand that it is hard to make up your mind to do this. Because the experience of similar operations—in the former USSR, in Yugoslavia, and in Somalia—bear witness to the fact that they are very difficult. That they too entail human casualties. I am still convinced that there is no need for us to get involved in such operations thousands of kilometers away from our territory. But in this case it is a question of a direct threat to our security: Conflicts are blazing or are about to burst into flame right on our borders.

I understand that such a solution may generate a negative reaction in the former USSR republics. Suffice it to recall how sharply they reacted to the possibility of declaring the post-Soviet area a zone of Russian vital interests. Ideally, it would be better to "compel peace" together, operating within the CIS Joint Armed Forces. Ideally, it would be necessary to involve the whole world community in these endeavors. And that is precisely what our diplomacy should be geared to. However, I am very skeptical that this would work. At the moment our partners, both nearby and distant, have a fairly egotistical attitude to what is happening in the hotspots in the south of the former USSR. They are obviously counting on sitting on the fence behind Russia.

Consequently, however difficult it may be, proceeding on the basis of its own security—and I stress this—Moscow will have to transfer to the language of ultimatums and, if they are not carried out, then to the language of force. That is, the kind of language understood by leaders who are still hoping for a military solution to their problems.

Some people will say that these are uncivilized, imperial actions which violate the sovereignty of the new independent states. But, if I may say so, sovereignty presupposes not only the emblems, flags, currencies, limousines, and residences so dear to the hearts of the new leaders. It also presupposes the ability to ensure basic order in your own country and the observance of human rights there. It presupposes the ability to settle existing conflicts by peaceful means so that these conflicts do not threaten neighboring states. That is, sovereignty presupposes elementary maturity. If this is absent, then those whose interests are affected (whether it be a threat to the lives of fellow countrymen or a threat to the security of the borders) have every reason for taking action.

Belgium and France do not waste a minute before sending their paratroops to Zaire whenever the latest conflict breaks out there. And they consider this entirely civilized. Excesses are excesses, whether they be in Africa, Georgia, or Tajikistan.

At the same time it must be stressed that it is not Russia's business to seek ways of achieving a political settlement in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. Mutual relations within Tajikistan or its relations with Afghanistan are not Russia's business. But Russia can and should end the bloody massacres which are gathering pace. It can and should repel aggression. It can and should protect its fellow citizens. I think that the world community will understand us in this.

If no clear political decisions are adopted in this respect in the near future, great damage will be done to the prestige of our country. And not only international prestige. Faith in the Russian state will also be undermined within Russia. In actual fact, a state is only worth anything if it is capable of ensuring the security of its citizens and its borders and securing its vital interests.

Khasbulatov Comments on Involvement in Tajikistan

LD1907184693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1831 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Vladimir July 19 TASS—"If Russia's interests are to be protected, we must begin at the far approaches to it," Russian parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov said in response to a question from journalists about the situation on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan during his tour of the Vladimir region east of Moscow. "We do not have the right to just up and leave the border, otherwise somebody may rise beyond the Urals," Khasbulatov said.

Commenting on Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze's statement that "the clue to the settlement of the conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia is held by Russia," the parliament chairman said Russia and its parliament have always stuck to peaceful positions and sought to resolve all conflicts through negotiations.

Insults will continue to be leveled at Russia as long as the republic fails to formulate a stable foreign policy which takes into account Russia's national state interests. There is no such formulation at present, according to Khasbulatov. Russia used to have a strong foreign policy which has lately been dissolved in Western organisations and NATO structures, he said.

According to Khasbulatov, the situation can be rectified by letting the Russian parliament play a more active role in working out a foreign policy concept and controlling its implementation.

Sakhalin Imposes Ban on Illegal Foreign Workers

LD1907195993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1933 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzno-Sakhalinsk July 19 TASS—An attempt to block the channels of illegal entry of foreign manpower was made in Sakhalin. By the order of head of the regional administration, Yevgeniy Krasnoyarov, all enterprises, institutions and organisations regardless of forms of ownership, are obliged to draw up a licence for concluding contracts or labour agreements on the use of foreign workers' labour.

As of the beginning of this year, such contracts were made for the bringing of 644 foreign workers—mainly from China and North Korea. But even competent organs will hardly be able to give the exact number of foreigners working now at building projects and agricultural farms on the island.

Meanwhile an illegal job taking by foreigners does a serious damage to the labour market in the region where about 7,700 unemployed were registered in the first six months of this year.

In accordance with the resolution, foreign citizens who are given a job without corresponding licences and permissions are considered illegal labour migrants and are subject to the deportation from the Sakhalin and Kuril Islands at the expense of their employers.

Pastukhov on Progress of Abkhazian-Georgian Talks

LD1907162693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1235 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi, 19 Jul—"An active search for ways to peacefully settle the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict continues," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov told an ITAR-TASS correspondent at Adler airport; he arrived here today after a series of meetings with the Georgian and Abkhazian leadership in Tbilisi, Sukhumi, and Gudauta. Boris Pastukhov refrained from more specific comments on the work done during these days and explained that the negotiation process is far from having reached an impasse and that representatives of the sides are examining and proposing new versions of a peaceful agreement.

According to Boris Pastukhov, the topic of the withdrawal of Georgian troops from the territory of Abkhazia causes the most disagreements.

This evening Boris Pastukhov and the Foreign Ministry employees who accompany him are flying to Moscow from Sochi.

Churkin, Serbian President Discuss Peace Talks

LD1907200393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1913 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Belgrade July 19 TASS—A meeting between Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and special envoy of

the Russian president Vitaliy Churkin, which was held today, focused on the Yugoslav crisis and the Geneva talks to settle it.

During the meeting, it was emphasised that the recent meeting between the Serbian and Croatian presidents within the framework of the Geneva negotiations became an important step towards dispelling tension between the parties, a step that could help achieve a political treaty on the Bosnian settlement on the basis of the confederative set-up of this republic.

Milosevic emphasised that the confederative solution proposed by the Serbian and Croatian parties is not aimed against Moslems. Its goal is to create conditions that would enable each people to build their economic and cultural life on the territory belonging to them in accordance with their rights and interests. This solution is real and feasible. Therefore, the Serbian leadership advocates speeding up talks on issues that remain open and ending immediately armed clashes in Bosnia.

During the meeting Milosevic raised the issue of lifting sanctions against Yugoslavia. If previously there were illusions about the availability of grounds for imposing sanctions, the latest development of events refutes the moral and material reasons for their continued application. He voiced hope that Russia, mindful of the facts concerning the Yugoslav crisis and the peaceful policy pursued by Serbia, will make its contribution to canceling the sanctions.

Churkin Optimistic for Settlement

LD1907225093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2210 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Jul (TASS)—I hope that the present situation and the shifts in the positions of all the participants in the Yugoslav conflict will become a watershed along the path of the settlement of the conflict. It is now obvious that a desire for peace and a political method of resolving disputes and problems have, as far as all the sides involved in the conflict are concerned, begun to gain the upper hand over the variant involving force. This was stated by Vitaliy Churkin, special representative of the Russian president and deputy Russian Federation foreign minister, following his latest trip around the region of the former Yugoslavia.

Over the past few days, the Russian diplomat held talks with the leadership of Croatia, the Serb Krajina, and the Moslem community in Bosnia. On 19 Jul he had meetings with the presidents of Bosnia and Yugoslavia. In a conversation with Russian journalists in Belgrade, he singled out the importance of the agreement between Krajina and Croatia concerning the opening of the Maslenica bridge and the withdrawal of the Croatian troops from the seized Krajina territories. If this agreement is observed by both sides, one can speak of a good

start towards peace not just between Zagreb and Knin, but also between Serbia and Croatia, said the Russian diplomat.

Having described his conversation with Alija Izetbegovic, leader of Bosnia and its Moslem community in Sarajevo as very productive and encouraging, V. Churkin was more restrained in his assessment concerning the prospects for peace in this republic. Battles continue in many of its regions and, moreover, the Moslem side is using this as a pretext for delaying its participation in the talks.

That is why the main task now is to achieve the observance of a firm armistice. Referring to his conversations with the UN forces officers in Bosnia, V. Churkin expressed concern in connection with the problem of "security zones," the name given to several Moslem enclaves. Provocative attacks on the Blue Helmets may be carried out in these zones, with the aim of placing responsibility for this upon the Bosnian Serbs. This, in turn, may lead to very serious complications, he said.

Touching on the prospects for the lifting of sanctions against Yugoslavia, the Russian diplomat stated that as soon as an agreement is signed on a peaceful settlement in Bosnia, Russia will suggest that sanctions be lifted. Until this happens, it is, in his words, unrealistic to try to get the sanctions lifted, because of the harsh position of the United States and a number of other Western countries. In this context he noted that the UN committee charged with controlling the sanctions has, unfortunately, shown itself to be an "extremely politicized and bureaucratic organization."

Ussuri Cossacks Oppose Revising PRC Border

LD1607153293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 16 Jul 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Ussuri cossacks have sent a message to the Russian leadership opposing any revision of the Russian-Chinese border. The cossacks are alarmed at the possible revision of the borders being undertaken by the joint Russian-Chinese demarcation commission. A redrawing of the borders may result in up to 1,500 hectares of land in Maritime Kray being transferred to China.

Before October 1917, all this arable land belonged to cossacks, (Vitaliy Poluyanov), ataman of the Ussuri cossack host, said in an interview with RIA. The cossacks hope that the high authorities will be sensible, otherwise they reserve the right to defend their lands.

China To Penalize Exporters of Poor Quality Goods

PM1907131193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[Vladimir Skosyrev report: "Chinese Supplying Fake Goods to Russia Run Risk of Death Penalty"]

[Text] Beijing—Beijing is seriously concerned by the poor reputation of Chinese consumer goods among customers in Russia and the other CIS countries.

The State Council (Chinese Government) convened a conference on this question, which announced that companies engaged in border trade will be subjected to strict supervision and checks at customs. And severe penalties, including the death penalty, will be applied to businessmen who export goods known to be of poor quality or fake.

Chinese border trade with the CIS countries totaled \$1.9 billion last year. However, the boom in commodity turnover was accompanied by some small enterprises starting to produce poor-quality articles or goods bearing fake labels specifically for sale in Russia, Chinese observer Wang Yeng pointed out. And these goods are mainly transported by Chinese "shuttles" on one-day trips to Russia.

These operations, Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Shi Guangsheng noted at the conference, enrich unscrupulous entrepreneurs but damage the long-term prospects for cooperation with neighbors.

Chernomyrdin on Economic Cooperation With Germany

PM1907140993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Talks in Bonn Were Extremely Important"]

[Text] "The talks held in Bonn Wednesday with the FRG president, the chancellor, and the leaders of a number of leading ministries were extremely important," Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, declared here at a news conference for German and foreign journalists.

Germany, the Russian premier pointed out, is Russia's traditional priority political and economic partner in Europe. "I am pleased to note," he emphasized, "that there are no longer any questions in Russian-FRG relations at present whose discussion could carry a confrontational charge."

The good tradition of joint progress along the path of deepening partnership and good-neighborly relations, V. Chernomyrdin pointed out, was continued anew during the talks which Russian President Boris Yeltsin and FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl held in Irkutsk 10-11 July. "It is in our common interests to preserve and build up multifaceted cooperation and to seek to achieve greater closeness and confidentiality," the head of the Russian Government said.

Touching on problems which are complicating bilateral relations in the financial and economic sphere, he singled out primarily Russia's debts to Germany, the reduction in commodity turnover by one-third in 1992, and

the lowering of incentives for German capital investments in the Russian economy. "In addition, the FRG itself is experiencing substantial financial difficulties connected, among other things, with the economic opening up of the area of the former GDR—which objectively limits the possibilities of meeting our wishes in the financial sphere," Chernomyrdin emphasized.

At the same time, he said in conclusion, we see real prospects for deepening business ties in realizing the main areas of economic cooperation outlined in the December joint statement by B. Yeltsin and H. Kohl and supplemented during the Irkutsk talks. They affect sectors such as machine building, consumer goods production, and the use of new forms of cooperation—joint ventures, mutual direct investments, leasing, barter deals. "In our view," Chernomyrdin pointed out, "all this will accelerate structural changes in the economies of Russia and the new federal laender. We value highly Germany's stand on questions of assistance for the Russian reforms and, in particular, Russia's broader involvement in world trade and the European integration processes."

The chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers answered journalists' questions mainly concerning the problem of Russia's paying off its foreign debts, operating conditions for German industrialists in our country, and the restoration of close coproduction ties between firms in the new FRG laender and Russian enterprises.

Speaking of the problem of access to the world market for Russian industrial commodities, the head of government pointed out that Russia now possesses a whole list of output which could compete successfully on world markets—above all, output from machine building and a number of light industrial sectors. "I disagree with the discrimination which now exists toward Russian commodities," he declared.

Answering a question about foreign debts, Chernomyrdin pointed out that a scheme is currently being drawn up with banks for the purpose of eliminating these debts. This debt-servicing scheme is clear to us today and has been agreed with Russia's partners, the premier said.

Deputy Defense Minister Begins Visit to Germany

LD1907174493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1722 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Naryshkin and Vyacheslav Kevorkov]

[Text] Bonn July 19 TASS—Russian First Deputy Defence Minister Andrey Kokoshin began the first day of his official visit to Germany today by holding talks with German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe on cooperation in the military field between the two countries, as well as on conversion and diversification of defence enterprises of Russia and Germany.

On Tuesday, Andrey Kokoshin will meet deputy chairman of the North Atlantic Assembly Karsten Voigt

and hold talks with Michael Geyer, the state secretary of the German Defence Ministry.

Deputies 'Perplexed' by Questions in Strasbourg

PM1907133793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 7

[Aleksey Vorobyev report under the "Press Conference" rubric: "Who Is Preventing Us From Knocking Through a Window Into Europe"]

[Text] "We were at times perplexed by some of the questions asked by European parliamentarians, so naive have these questions been." This sentiment was stated repeatedly by members of the Russian Supreme Soviet delegation which visited Strasbourg a few days ago to attend sessions of the European Parliament.

During the visit it emerged that certain figures in this esteemed organ have extremely hazy ideas both about the existing political system in Russia and the overall sociopolitical situation in our country.

"Our 32-hour stay in Strasbourg convinced us that attempts to block the activity of the Russian parliament have now not only been stepped up inside the country, but also in the international arena," Deputy Vladimir Mazayev stated. "We learned that during their trips around Europe, Messrs. Starovoytova, Yakunin, and Borovoy actively sought to persuade certain circles that the Russian parliament is both illegal and incompetent.

"However, despite the efforts of some political circles to disrupt contacts between Russian parliamentarians and their European colleagues, they have taken place nevertheless and understanding has been reached during these contacts."

Grachev Receives Romanian Army Chief of Staff

LD1907115693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1020 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Jul— Army General Pavel Grachev, the Russian defense minister, today received Lieutenant General Dumitru Cioflina, chief of general staff of the Romanian Army, who is in Moscow on a working visit. The Romanian military chief also met today with Colonel Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of general staff of the Russian armed forces.

The Russian Defense Ministry press center did not give the ITAR-TASS correspondent any details of the talks, noting only that "during the talks, which were held in a friendly atmosphere, matters of mutual interest were discussed."

Admiral Gromov's Visit to Turkey Viewed

PM1907120993 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by Anatoliy Yurkin: "Stand Firm!"]

[Text] Admiral Feliks Gromov's visit to Turkey has brought many surprises for the Black Sea sailors. Analysts of all political orientations even before the trip were drawing attention to the fact that the Russian naval chief would disembark onto the Turkish shore (come down the gangway onto the pier) from a ship of the Red Banner Northern Fleet, which had previously been in the Mediterranean.

The visit began with the voyage of the Red Banner Northern Fleet's patrol ship Ladnyy from Novorossiysk. But it was not the flag on the mast which shook the naval and now the Russian public more powerfully than a depth charge. It became known that the Russian Navy admiral had suggested that the Turks close the outlet from the Black Sea onto the world ocean. The Black Sea sailors spent whole centuries using force of arms and Russian diplomacy to avert from their heart this terrible historical blow. And now a mortal danger looms over the Red Banner Black Sea Fleet.

Admiral F. Gromov, to judge by foreign information sources, is also sounding out the possibility of a trade deal for the delivery of large surface ships, submarines (diesel-electric submarines) of various modifications and even missile boats to Turkey. This armored flail, sold for millions to maintain the democratic regimes in Russia and Ukraine, will not only halt any attempts by the Russian Navy to get through the strait but will also threaten sea communications and drastically aggravate the situation both in the Caucasus coastal regions and in the Crimea.

It should be noted that the visiting naval chief was not the first to offer commodities. The first merchant and money changer was former airborne forces battalion commander Pavel Grachev. During his visit to Turkey he offered his NATO neighbors combat helicopters and armored personnel carriers. He did this also for the sake of money for democratic prosperity and to extinguish debts. Now with the aid of Russian equipment praised by the "Voice of Israel," Demirel is setting fire to Kurdish settlements and sowing death among the unarmed civilian population. The admiral's proposals threaten to result in the foreseeable future in missile and artillery strikes against the Russian navy's Black Sea bases and against the cities of the Crimea, which increasingly frequently is being called age-old Turkish territory.

Who stands to gain from the strengthening of the Turkish Navy and whose ball is the visiting admiral placing in the Russian goalposts? Finally, who is handing over the Russian key to the Dardanelles gates by preparing for our ships the future of goldfish in an enclosed aquarium? This accords primarily with the geopolitical interests of the United States and its NATO allies. A militarily strong Turkey is a reliable shield for NATO's Southern flank. The "Desert Storm" operation enabled the world superpower fighting for a new

world order to strengthen its bases in that country and prepare them for use when necessary.

Of course, it is strange, but F. Gromov's proposals for the delivery of ships to Turkey have so far not been assessed by another Russian naval chief—Admiral E. Baltin, who suits Yeltsin and Kravchuk equally. It is obviously no accident that Black Sea veterans are calling his stance on the fleet's partition treacherous. But in this case, after all, it is a case of the fate of both parts of the fleet. The Turks will not make any distinction and one can be convinced of this from the memorandums on banning the navigation of aircraft carriers through the strait. The NATO country has its own reason for not letting the Black Sea Fleet through. You do not have to be a great strategist to understand that with the accession to power in Russia of patriotically minded leaders for whom the interests of their people and the Fatherland are sacred and paramount, the ships of the Black Sea Fleet will take up combat positions in the Mediterranean and start to prevent the world piracy in the Balkans. The democratic lovers of the new world order do not want that stabilizing factor. Russian diplomacy pretends that nothing special is happening and is keeping its position on this issue a secret from the public.

Visitor F. Gromov, although he bears admiral's shoulder boards, nonetheless is not acting on his own behalf. He has been sent by the ruling democrats to seek money and officially to decide questions of Russia's participation in the exhibition and sale of military equipment produced in Turkey. The previous international fair failed to provide a rake-off. The competitors across the ocean did not allow us near the profitable business. It is to be supposed that everything has been settled in advance with regard to the ships, at summit level, during talks, and without protocol formalities. So that the Russian sailors will have to pipe all hands on deck and act according to the order: "Stand firm!" So that we do not have to issue in the foreseeable future the signal: "I am dying but I shall not surrender!"

Commentary Views Relations With Iran

NC1907122993 Moscow Radio Moscow in Persian 1330 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Vladimir Pronin commentary from "The World Today" feature]

[Text] Esteemed listeners: The two-day working visit by Yeorgiy Konatev, deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, to Iran is important to Iranian-Russian relations.

In view of the role and the (?importance) of Iran in (?regional) affairs, multifaceted relations with it form one of the most important aspects of Russian foreign policy. The visit by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to Iran this spring can be considered significant proof of this allegation. Then, the two countries' ministers signed a political agreement on reciprocal bases and on principles of good neighborliness between the Russian Federation and Iran.

A protocol on political consultations between the two countries' Foreign Ministries was signed. Within the framework of this protocol, last week, Yeorgiy Konatev, the deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, visited Tehran. As the Russian diplomat stated, his visit indicates Moscow's wish to expand talks with Tehran. Conceding that in some ways Russian and Iranian foreign policies do not conform, he said the main objective of his visit was to gauge the extent of such differences and concurrences.

The Russian delegate expressed concern over the great slump in reciprocal trade—twice that of the corresponding period in 1991—as the main deterrent to broadening bilateral relations. According to him, the reason is that the issue of bilateral relations has not been resolved and Iran has not implemented its financial commitments. As Konatev told ITAR-TASS, the Iranian side understands Russia's concern and has assured that the issue of disbursing outstanding amounts will soon be resolved.

Cooperation on the Caspian Sea was also discussed at the Tehran talks. The two sides described as positive the prospects for mutual cooperation within the framework of the organization to bring the littoral countries of the Caspian Sea closer. According to the Russian diplomat, Russia is interested in signing a comprehensive agreement as soon as possible on the rights to the geological resources in the Caspian Sea and their utilization.

The trend toward establishing a regional organization and the approval of its charter (?may materialize). The Tehran talks covered a series of regional issues. Iran announced it considers the government in Tajikistan as legitimate. The Iranian Foreign Ministry representatives denied Iran is arming the Tajik opposition or training its guerrillas. According to Konatev, Iran displayed understanding of the Russian stance on the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border areas, that Russia will dispel attacks on its border guards with all its resources.

There was no apparent difference between the two countries' approach to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. They affirmed their neutrality and stressed their desire to settle the conflict amicably. The two countries' stances on resolving the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue differed somewhat. Russia opposes lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina and believes this will merely prolong the armed conflict. But Iran and other Islamic countries favor lifting the embargo.

The recent session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] in Islamabad discussed this issue and decided that military contingents from ICO countries, that is, the troops of 10 (?member countries, will be dispatched). As Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati said in his meeting with the Russian emissary, the UN secretary general will make a final decision on this.

During the Tehran talks, other topics of mutual interest were also discussed. Returning to Moscow, Konatev said the two sides agreed to continue mutual consultations.

Political & Media Issues

Shakhray: 'Sovereignization' Echoes USSR Breakup

PM1907140193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 1

[Comment by Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray under "Politics" rubric: "'Our Society Is Losing Instinct for Self-Preservation.' Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray Believes"]

[Text] The draft of the Russian Federation's new constitution, prepared and adopted by the Constitutional Conference, is merely the minimum.

A great deal now depends on the components of the Russian Federation. After the new wave of "sovereignization," when certain oblasts have declared themselves republics or are on the way to this, it is difficult to agree on the section in the draft constitution on the federative structure. It seems to me that not all politicians are conscious of this danger. The proclamation of republics is a process similar to the breakup of the USSR. Both the hand and the style are the same, although the reasons might be different. Some have failed to cope with economic problems and have decided to reduce everything to the question of status—then, they say, there will be more economic opportunities. Others have political motives. Many soviets perceive the new constitution as a threat to themselves, although it enables each component of the Federation to choose the system and structure of its own organs of power and management. The only condition is that they should not run counter to the republican form of rule or the principles of people's power and the separation of powers.

But, since this evidently is not acceptable to the soviets, they advance unacceptable conditions so as to bring the constitutional process to a standstill. Unfortunately, in the name of preserving their power the soviets do not stop at the threat of destroying the state. I am afraid that our society is losing its instinct for self-preservation and suffering from a kind of political AIDS.

In any case, in my view it is better to postpone the section on the federative structure for the time being. There is no need to force events. Talks are proceeding now, and there is growing understanding of the fact that the experience of the USSR's breakup must not be repeated—which inspires optimism.

Chernomyrdin Bemoans Status of Culture, Art

PM2007084593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 3

[Unattributed account of speech by Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin at "recent" session of Government Presidium under the "Cultural Policy" rubric: "Viktor

Chernomyrdin: 'What, Have We Become Quite Indigent? Where Did You Get That Idea?...'"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] There was a discussion of the federal program for the preservation and development of culture and art at a recent session of the Russian Government Presidium under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. It was decided to allocate 617 billion rubles [R] during 1993-1995, to reopen (this has already been done) the currency account of the Russian Intellectual Property Agency in which all the currency royalties of Russian authors have accumulated, and to change the very approach to funding culture. But it was not just "daily bread" that was discussed during the debate on the program, in particular, and in Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's speech, the text of which (with minor abridgments) we offer for readers' attention.

We are living through difficult times: The country and, in particular, the economy are in a grave state, but our cares and problems today should not make us lose our people's spirituality, originality, and culture. We should not forget about our young people, for this is the generation which will take our place and continue all causes. Our country is over 1,000 years old, has grown and flourished, and is now wasting away before our eyes. If an ordinary family cannot afford to teach art to its children because this is too expensive, we will gain nothing but will lose.

I am opposed to taking everything in hand and imposing some ideological diktat, as in the old days. But it is, of course, necessary to control and license—we must not stuff our people's heads with trash, we must not fail to use the tremendous wealth that we have accumulated, for we thereby undermine this wealth. We must create conditions for the development of culture. Even though the problem of funding culture is urgent, trillions or billions will not resolve all questions. This is not enough today. For the mechanism of the protection of culture largely failed to work only because it was declarative and conceptual, and it never happened that Kirill Lavrov, for example, saw that the government's decree was protecting his theater. Only now has an effective mechanism been drawn up, and we can now advance further. The Ministry of Culture must unite all our actions. We—the government—will not be able to work with every cultural establishment or creative union separately. We must create conditions for them and advance legislative initiatives. It depends on us whether Russian culture is revived or perishes, despite all its wealth.

The leaders who have spoken here have glossed over all these problems in vain. They should have been a bit tougher and a bit more specific: Why is it, nonetheless, that we are failing? For it is not just a question of money.

The program for preserving and developing culture and art pursues good ends. But we need this program to be fulfilled. For this, it is necessary, above all, to fine-tune the tax system and mobilize the nonstate organizations

and funds which we have. From the viewpoint of the interests of the Russian state, all must participate in this program.

This must be economically advantageous. But how are things with us today? A creative union, for example, has earned R900,000, but only part of these funds end up in its pocket, minus taxes. The idea is that these funds should come back here too. Nobody lays claim to them. All the money earned by culture must be given up to it. But precisely this does not happen. What kind of mechanism, then, do we have today? If we also levy taxes on sponsors—incidentally, they can also be our enterprises—on all sides, there will be no sponsors either. Some R20,000 taken from a theater, or R40,000 from a museum—what kind of money is that to us? What, in general, are we making of our country? Are we turning everything into a farce? What, have we become quite indigent? Where did you all get that idea? We lack huge funds for other matters, but we should not economize on culture.

Absolutely all cultural and art figures, particularly our large firms, complain that they are being stifled by the cost of municipal services. Is this not a paradox? In our state these are kopeks in the budget! That same old "wholesale" approach is manifested here, the same for all: the same for Norilsk Nickel Combine as for the Bolshoy Drama Theater and a museum. What kind of museum, what kind of theater will withstand this? The chief point is that the advantage to us can be measured in kopeks. These processes are regulated all over the world. Why is it that no one deals with them in our country?...

We allocate some funds for culture and then reduce them. Maybe we seek them in the wrong place?

As regards the exemption of cultural establishments and enterprises from the compulsory 50-percent sale of currency, we are now preparing a decree and we will certainly exempt them from this "tribute." But, I repeat, it is not just a question of money. I am equally concerned about the question of what we are offering, what kind of culture we are giving to young people. I do not know whether we have a mechanism to monitor and protect the moral health of society. If such a mechanism does not exist, it must be created. Pornography must not flood the country, but it has, this cheap trash. They push us toward it so and have surrounded us with it on all sides. We are able to do many things, particularly in art and in industry, better than anyone else in the world—they do not let us. On the contrary, they push us toward disintegration, collapse, and corruption. There must be no Great Russia, no nation, no originality. Look at our movie screens: They give us nothing but trash for free. Are we pleased? Why must our people consume all this? Listen to what they say, particularly in the countryside: It's a terrible shame, the ground could have swallowed me up! We do not see any Russian movies or leading collectives at all now. We will soon forget the names of favorite artistes, our own Russian ones. Nothing but

smoke! This is not to mention amateur creative collectives, for these still exist in plants and factories. I saw an amateur factory concert in Sochi—the show lasts 90 minutes at a single stretch. Popular folklore collectives are also alive and well, only there is no place for them now on our television. Why? Who controls all this? Is it really necessary to rule by edict? Of course not. It is necessary simply to look, speak, show, and present all the best that we have in Russia's varied art. There is no need for the Ministry of Culture to hide behind anyone here. We must pursue our own line, our own cultural policy here. This must be enshrined in the program for preserving and developing culture and art.

Government Leaders' Activities, Meetings Reported

PM1907143193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Text] Trips, Meetings, Talks

Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian Government, is concluding his visit to the FRG. First Vice Premier Oleg Lobov and Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays are with him in Germany.

First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets participated in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session which examined the question of urgent measures to ensure the gathering of this year's harvest. Then he tackled the resolution of current issues.

Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray arrived in Beijing on a visit. The main purpose of the trip, according to the vice premier, is to exchange experience with the PRC State Committee [as published] for Nationalities Affairs in the sphere of regional policy and the regulation of national relations. Sergey Shakhray also has meetings planned with PRC President Jiang Zemin and with the leadership of the Legislation Commission and other business contacts.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha is concluding his trip to the United States. The UN Conference on Fishing was held in New York, at which Aleksandr Zaveryukha headed the Russian delegation.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin was in Krasnoyarsk, where he resolved questions connected with that region's economic development. He also participated in a session of the Russian-Mongolian Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation.

Vice Premier Boris Fedorov is on vacation through 28 July.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov participated in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session on the question "On Urgent Measures To Ensure the 1993 Harvest" and then

in a session of the operations group for importing commodities into regions of the Far North.

Official Trip

Tajik Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhonov and Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev urgently flew to the border with Afghanistan.

Unofficial Visit

Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will set out today with his wife on a two-day unofficial visit to the FRG, where he will discuss with Klaus Kinkel, his German colleague, questions which were the object of the Irkutsk talks between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Security

A conference on "The Russian Federation's Security Concept: Problems of Formulation and Implementation" was held yesterday in the conference room of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense. Security Council Secretary Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov delivered the report.

Russia was and still is a great country, the main speaker emphasized, and it ought not to deceive or dissemble in either foreign or domestic policy or get involved in dubious actions in either nearby or distant foreign parts. Russian policy must worthily and validly champion its own state interests.

The conference was also addressed by members of the Russian Government and representatives of ministries and scientific organizations.

Socialist Leader on Resisting 'Pressure' on Constitution

PM1907155793 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 2

[Statement by Lyudmila Vartazarova, chairman of the Socialist Party of the Working People, under the rubric "On the Constitution": "Not by Rallies Alone"]

[Text] The constitutional process is continuing remorselessly. The result of the Constitutional Conference—the draft basic law—has been passed on to the Russian Supreme Soviet. But there was no triumphal blitzkrieg because some participants in the conference did not allow it to be turned into a Constituent Assembly.

I believe that we did the right thing when we decided to participate in the Constitutional Conference. We and certain other participants managed to keep the conference within the limits of a consultative body discussing and advising on the draft. The numbers approving the draft should in no way be interpreted as compelling adoption of it. No, many participants voted for a draft which can be discussed in the regions and which can be submitted to Congress!

But nor should we harbor any illusions or relax. The president's side will do whatever it takes to force the draft constitution through. If there is no quorum at the Congress they will quickly institute a provisional organ.

It is not only at rallies that this pressure can be resisted. Our participation in the conference showed that it is possible to work successfully from within. If an outraged chairman of the Supreme Soviet walks out and you go with him, that is a weighty protest. If the representatives of the labor collective councils sign an appeal and you join them, that gives food for thought to important people. If the representatives of the republics express doubts that this is not the draft constitution of a federal state, that is an alarming symptom.

Incidentally, even the fairly calm Consolidation Party did not approve the draft. No, these facts do not give grounds for viewing agreement with the draft constitution as a clear-cut victory.

'Triple Protection' Communications System Planned

PM1907104193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Irina Kretova report: "The World In Your Pocket"]

[Text] Government structures and security [okhrana] will switch to a new kind of communications—multi-net—at the end of July.

The new system boasts a triple protection system. Telephones set on a certain frequency cannot be tapped. Wherever subscribers may be located—in their office, on board an aircraft, or in the street—it is always possible to contact them, bypassing satellite communications.

Khasbulatov Speaks at Opening of 'RTV-Parliament' Studio

LD2007115293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1050 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Jul—The independent parliamentary television in Russia should be a source of amplification of official information and not a means of ideological struggle between branches of power, Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov said. He was taking part today in the ceremony to open the new studio of Russian Television—"RTV-Parliament". It is located within the walls of the House of Soviets of Russia.

"RTV-Parliament" will be able to make a specific contribution to the solution of problems facing Russian society, in particular in demonstrating to everyone the abiding value of the various types and forms of Soviets in world history, Khasbulatov noted.

Those who have set up the parliamentary television believe that it should inform Russians as fully as possible about the work of the Supreme Soviet, the preparation and adoption of new laws, and the analysis of their influence on the life of society.

The "RTV-Parliament" program will be shown by Russian Television five times a week.

Companies Want Yeltsin To Veto Media Law Amendments

LD1907190693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 19 Jul 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Today heads of state television and radio companies held a news conference in Moscow. They hope that Yeltsin will veto an amendment to the law on mass media put forward by the parliament.

[Correspondent] Heads of state television and radio companies have appealed to the president with this request. At the same time, amendments to the law on press recently adopted by the parliament, envisaging the introduction of an institution of federal councils, were qualified by them as an attempt to introduce censorship and take over the fourth power.

[Begin Poptsov, chairman of the All-Russian Television and Radio Company, recording] First, I would like to draw your attention to something that worries and concerns me very much, that is an extraordinary hostility of the committee on mass media towards the mass media. It is amazing how easily our deputies decide the fate of a professional entity. [end recording]

[Correspondent] According to the parliament's plans, a federal council for state television must be set up by 12 August. If this happens, the workforce of television and radio companies will be ready for protest actions, said Kirill Ignatyev, first deputy of the first television and radio company Ostankino. He did not elaborate, however, as to what form these actions would take. Meanwhile, the participants of the news conference gave reassurances that the interests of television viewers will not suffer. Heads of the state television also accused the Supreme Soviet of trying to control the fourth power through financial levers. The recent parliamentary ban on selling off the state television can only be qualified as such an attempt. The situation is complicated by the fact that companies have large debts. In the end, the state television may find itself in a serious financial crisis by September, underlined Kirill Ignatyev. According to him, the Supreme Soviet is willing to offer financial help in return for total control. Indeed, beware of Danaans bearing gifts.

Radio, TV Association Congress Under Way

LD1907190793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By correspondent N. Zvereva from Nizhniy Novgorod; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Summary] The fourth congress of the International Radio and Television Association is under way in Nizhniy Novgorod. Over 50 independent television and radio companies are represented at it. Anatoliy Lysenko, head of the association and director general of Russian Television, is in favor of more independent companies being set up. Nizhniy Novgorod has two commercial companies—the NN network and the Volga—which are successfully competing with the town's two state companies.

Russian State TV Director Views Problems

PM2007094393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 7

[Article by Anatoliy Lysenko, general director of All-Russian State Television and Radio Company: "You Cannot Win Without Getting to Your Feet"]

[Text] To be precise it must be said that first, on 10 December 1990, it was "Radio Russia" which went on the air. And only on 13 May 1991 did the television channel start to operate. Those two years passed in a titanic struggle against poverty. I have given virtually my entire life to work on television, but I still did not understand how television could be made without equipment. The secret is obviously known only to governments which, as they replace each other, adopt terrible decrees on the subject. But nothing is done! Nonetheless Russian television, with the most essential technical minimum, is contriving to work...

What have we not managed to do in this time? So far we have not managed to create fundamentally new television. Today's television still suffers from the old ailments.

We conceived of broadcasting that was not ideologized (today, fortunately, it is nonparty broadcasting). But practice shows that it is impossible to escape from an ideologized condition in two years. After all there is still in each of us, forgive me, a bolshevik, even in the fiercest democrat. So far our mentality is: He who is not with us is against us.

We are all very fond of repeating Chekhov's phrase about how we should squeeze the slave out of ourselves to the last drop. But we want the slave to be squeezed out the way water is squeezed from washing, straight into a bucket. One squeeze and the slave is thrown out of the bucket. That is not how it works. It takes a generation or two. Perhaps the boys and girls who direct "Tam-tam News" [children's news program] today will manage to resolve the task which we are setting ourselves—creating a fundamentally new television.

So far we have not managed fully to gather together a youthful, vibrant collective. Why? In my view the big trouble about television is that the influx of fresh forces and talented young people is very weak. People will object: But you have a new face on the screen almost every day! Yes, there are many faces, but a face and a personality are not the same thing, and here, unfortunately, the money factor plays a significant part. Alas, market relations have driven out creativity. Today the motive for creating a program is often not creativity, not the desire to do something new, but the possibility of earning money for an affluent life. For instance, an author comes and describes not the idea for a program, not its production, but how the sponsor is and what advertising there is. That is terrible...

It is a paradox that having rid itself of ideological fetters television has not given birth to stars. Why? Probably because stars were born in struggle. They refined their allegorical use of language and honed their professionalism. To appear on the screen you must prove your right to do so. It is not a question of showing devotion to the ideas of Marxism-Leninism. Incidentally, even in those times not so many people suffered from it. It is a case of the professional right to appear on screen. It is a case of skill. And alas, things are rather bad in our country in that respect. Discipline should be higher and there should be less confusion.

Unfortunately, the company's leadership is also to blame here. We are not exacting enough: We are too great democrats, so to speak. Perhaps because we are not bureaucrats but creative people. However strange it may seem I regret that we have few bureaucrats. We have become accustomed to treating the very concept of bureaucracy in a dismissive way. But after all a real bureaucrat is a professional. And that there are no real bureaucrats in the government or administration (or not enough of them) is simply a tragedy. It is a bad thing that there are few professional managers in our Russian television and radio company. After all, all our workers are creators—you spend all your time setting up a creative worker and trying to understand him. And sometimes you have to make demands, sometimes you have to shout, sometimes you have to thump the table, you need exactingness and toughness in some respects. I sometimes catch myself thinking: This is a poor scenario, the material should be "tightened up." But one does not make the effort. Later, of course, you reject it, but time passes... I for one even envy the exactingness of professional manager, of real bureaucrats. They are needed! We need a cadres service which would investigate people not according to their nationality or party allegiance but in terms of their level of skill.

What have we actually managed to do? We have managed to create individual programs. Our task now is to fit them into the broadcasting structure. There are bricks, some strong, some weak, and sometimes there are yawning gaps. But we must construct a wall, at least the frame of the overall building. How soon will we manage to do this? Television is not a newspaper. In a newspaper

you can bring together 15 good journalists and ultimately they will find sponsors who will buy paper and provide printing plant. But imagine 20 good producers who are given a single camera. Tomorrow not a single talented worker will be left.

I do not want to exaggerate the role of television but today, particularly in the situation of the newspaper publishing crisis (the scales of subscription are well known) the national radio and television network is a serious stabilizing system for the state. No, it does not produce material values. Yet it is after all a tangible link between the authorities and the people, an opportunity to take politics to those points toward which it is addressed.

Of course, I can understand the government. Let us allow that there is a specific sum in hard currency. But we need medicine for those with heart disease, food for children, funds to pay debts. What is the minister of finances to do?

Today spirited young people are appearing who are saying: If the state cannot maintain television, let's put it into private hands, into commercial structures. In my view that is stupid, because as of today the country's market economy is not developed, there are no structures of the kind which could develop a nationwide television network. Although with time, of course, private television and radio companies will appear, indeed they already exist. But state television will nonetheless remain. And that means that a state program of aid to television is needed. Subsisting on taxpayers' money, we will depend only on them—on our viewers!

I am a pessimistic optimist: I believe that "tomorrow will be better than yesterday." Here I am sober enough, realizing that in two years we have only just been able to find our feet and we need to do that to be able to run.

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin Views Inflation, Production

AU2007112393 Munich FOCUS in German 20 Jul 93
pp 120-121

[Interview with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin by Natalia Aljakina, Caroline Mascher, and Gisbert Mrozek in Bonn; date not given: "More Than Credits"]

[Text] [FOCUS] Mr. Prime Minister, are you satisfied with the development of German-Russian economic relations?

[Chernomyrdin] Russia's relations with the Federal Republic have a solid political and legal basis. Regrettably, the level of economic cooperation lags far behind that of political cooperation. The goods exchange is decreasing. Of course, this worries Russia.

We know and understand the traditional German caution, thoroughness, and thrift, but we would like to see more activity on the part of the Germans.

[FOCUS] What investment would you like to see?

[Chernomyrdin] German-Russian cooperation should not be confined to credits in the gas and oil areas. We also have a considerable interest in investment for the modernization of our coal industry and joint research projects in the area of energy conservation and alternative energy production.

[FOCUS] You are considered a representative of the powerful gas and oil industry....

[Chernomyrdin] Oil and gas supplies constitute 90 percent of our exports. But I am opposed to the exclusive promotion of the gas and oil industry, because this would ruin other sectors such as engineering, the metal industry, and the chemical sector. On the other hand, the lack of funds has forced us to promote, above all, those industrial branches that can repay the money that they have received in the form of foreign credits, direct investment, and other financial privileges, within a very short time. That holds particularly true for the oil and gas industry.

[FOCUS] For a long time, you were also considered an opponent of high foreign investment....

[Chernomyrdin] No foreign investment, in whatever form, is adequate enough to support or even reconstruct our industry. In my view, one must rather change the psychology of officials and industrial leaders. In the 1970's and 1980's, they were spoiled by the flow of cheap "petrodollars," and, at the end of the 1980's to the beginning of the 1990's, by financial aid that was granted for political reasons. Thus a stubborn stereotype has been formed among the country's executives: If we do not find the money in the country, we will leave it to the Foreign Ministry or the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations to find money.

So what we need is a national system to mobilize financial and material means. At the same time, we must improve the conditions for foreign investment because a speedy solution to our domestic problems also depends on it.

[FOCUS] What measures do you intend to take to overcome the serious economic crisis?

[Chernomyrdin] I think the most important task that the government has solved is that we have stopped the total production decline. It is true that we have not succeeded in definitely getting inflation under control, but we believe that the accords reached between the government and the central bank more than a month ago will produce an effect and will help decrease the rate of inflation by this fall at least.

[FOCUS] How do you explain the fact that the ruble seems to begin to stabilize?

[Chernomyrdin] First, there have been indications since the beginning of this year that production is stabilizing. Second, the government's financial and credit policy has become tougher and more consistent. Third, exports were higher than imports in the first half of this year. Fourth, the introduction of import tariffs, the limitation of the open currency position, and the transition to a more frequent quotation of the ruble against the dollar on the stock exchange played a role. Currently, the Russian Central Bank and the Finance Ministry have created enough currency reserves.

[FOCUS] How much leeway does the government have?

[Chernomyrdin] The economic reforms have not yet had an effect on production. This is primarily due to the fact that, in 1992, the Russian government lost the instruments of active control over production, and its influence on the economic sector was weakened. However, one can only overcome the crisis and guarantee a stable economic recovery if the state has a purposive and systematic influence on the economic processes.

[FOCUS] In what way?

[Chernomyrdin] The government's main task in the next period will be a stabilizing financial policy. It will also be important to promote industrial production and companies, above all medium-sized firms.

[FOCUS] Where are the points of main emphasis of your privatization program?

[Chernomyrdin] The government's priorities are clear. The major part of federal assets will be privatized through the issuance of vouchers. This system has been generally accepted by Russian businessmen. Gradually, vouchers are increasingly concentrating in the large financial and agents' firms, investment and voucher funds for the next purchase of the large number of shares of privatized companies.

But privatization does not end with the sale of national property. It must be followed by reorganization, the technological and organizational restructuring of privatized companies. This naturally requires large investment on the part of Russian and foreign investors.

[FOCUS] Can foreign investors also take part in the privatization program?

[Chernomyrdin] The privatization program does not rule out the participation of foreign investors. On the contrary, they can take part in the public sale of vouchers, bankruptcies, and investment trade, and can buy vouchers as currency in the privatization process.

However, in all deals—including deals with foreign investors—the Russian currency must be used as the only currency.

[FOCUS] Where do you stand in the power struggle between the president and the parliament?

[Chernomyrdin] The president and the parliament are constitutional and legal power organs. The government does not have the right to be for or against either of these organs. That must be seen by all those who are trying to use the government for their political games.

Yes, the government has backed the president's position and his effort to overcome the economic and power crisis. I am sure that without a president, it is impossible to build our Russian state; otherwise, the country would suffer and blood would be shed. On the other hand, the government is not the president's "pale shadow." The government categorically rejects any "extraordinary measures," and it acts within the framework of the constitution.

'Economic Revival' Suggests Alternative Policy

PM1907151393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Mikhail Berger report: "Eleven Ideas To Save Russia"]

[Text] An all-Russia economic conference chaired by Ruslan Khasbulatov and Viktor Chernomyrdin is to be held at the end of July—27-28 July. The first event in the preparations for the conference took place in the Russian parliament building 15 July.

The as yet little-known "Economic Revival" public association held a conference on the subject of "How To Survive and Revive the Russian Federation Economy" under the auspices of the Supreme Soviet Committee for Questions of Economic Reform and Ownership.

One speaker—Candidate of Economic Sciences Boris Rudnik—articulated a concept for an alternative to the economic policy that is being implemented, a policy that he unreservedly deemed to be erroneous and destructive. It is not a question, he said, of choosing a particular path toward a universally recognized goal. It is a question of taking a different avenue. These avenues consist, in Rudnik's opinion, in considerably boosting state regulation in highly important base sectors of industry, introducing rationing of the use of these sectors' output, and restoring the state order and state regulation of prices in this sphere. In his view, the market can and must develop in the consumer sector.

"Ideas of a Conciliatory Concept for a Program to Extricate Russia From Crisis" were submitted at the conference. It was noted particularly that the aim of this concept is to unite the stances espoused in the sphere of the economy by the various Supreme Soviet factions represented by Deputies V. Isakov, I. Rybkin, U. Temirov, and others.

The authors of the ideas propose that a two-sector economy be created following China's example, and that a number of urgent anticrisis measures be carried out now. There are 11 of these ideas in all. Here are some of them. Closure of Russia's borders, or the borders of states in the ruble zone, to uncontrolled movement of

people, commodities, and currency. The creation of people's and state monitoring [kontrol] to stimulate production of, rather than speculation in, goods. Revision of all Russia's agreements with other countries based on Russia's interests. The temporary introduction of a state monopoly on hard-currency commodities (oil, timber, nonferrous metals, and so on), as well as tobacco and alcohol. The establishment of a sound ruble-dollar exchange rate (in other words a mandatory rate, presumably as before). And freezing of prices and incomes.

Among the conditions to promote economic growth there is a proposal to create major corporations like Boeing, Sony, and General Motors and introduce a "market-based means of coordinating the plans of the corporations and the state over a period of one to five years." It is proposed that flotation and voucherization should be abolished as mistaken.

In theory it is a good thing that the Supreme Soviet is organizing discussions of various approaches and concepts for extrication from the crisis on the eve of the conference. However, it is quite possible that the ideas voiced during this initial discussion may prevail in the parliament's stance. Deputy Speaker Vladimir Ispravnikov, who was present during the discussion, spoke extremely encouragingly about the ideas put forward.

On the other hand, there are still no signs that supporters of the present course are preparing as thoroughly to uphold their positions at the coming conference due to open in 10 days.

Symposium Yields 'Food for Thought'

PM2007104393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 1

[Yuriy Rytov report: "The Mountain Seems To Have Brought Forth a Mouse..."]

[Text] The "All-Russia Economic Conference" to which White House representatives invited journalists 15 July (see ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI of that date) in fact turned out to be a meeting of a small group of some of the capital's less well-known economists. It immediately emerged however, that the mouse could easily turn into a lion.

When the conference began its work, it emerged that the keynote speaker, whose task, so to speak, was to lay a theoretical basis for the speeches of subsequent orators—Dmitriy Chernikov, a full member of Russian Academy of Economic Sciences—had not shown up at the session. The conference was obviously ruined, and the mirrors in the Hall of Mirrors clearly reflected the gradual exodus of my journalist colleagues from the room. How wrong they were to leave!

The symposium, which was extremely modest both in terms of its participants and in terms of the amount of time it took up (4 hours), yielded plenty of food for thought.

The conference participants were unanimous in their assessment of the reforms: They have failed utterly, brought the economy to the point of total collapse and the people to a state of impoverishment, and turned the country into a raw-materials appendage of the West. And what have the reforms offered in return?

These, for example, are the recommendations of Candidate of Economic Sciences Boris Rudnik. Introduce state regulation of key sectors of the economy—raw materials extraction and processing. Apply state price regulation to the products of these sectors. Introduce norm-related distribution of these products. Restore the state order system. Make use of direct state investment to restore and develop the aforementioned sectors.

What recommendations were submitted by other participants at the conference?

The processes of flotation and voucherization should be abolished by the Supreme Soviet as misguided. In their place a law on transferring state enterprises to labor collectives is to be introduced: Either on a leasehold basis with a buy-out option, or on the basis of the labor collective buying out the enterprise at the going rate. In order to check inflation it is necessary not only to regulate taxes and loans, but also to establish three groups of prices (fixed, ceiling, and free), regulate profitability, and establish rules for calculating cost and the link between income and the volume of production. A new Russian currency should be established in tandem with the implementation of monetary reform.

What else? The commercialization of kolkhozes and sovkhozes is a fundamental way of extrication from the crisis. The creation of private farms in Russia can only occur as such in certain sectors of agriculture. The purchase and sale of land during a period of crisis will lead directly to speculation in land and the collapse of agriculture...

So what is it to be, a complete rejection of the reforms and the restoration of administrative edict methods of managing the economy? No, the conference participants consider themselves marketeers, only more cautious than Gaydar and his team. Let me quote an extract from the concluding document "A Conciliatory Blueprint for a Program To Extricate Russia from the Crisis."

In order to establish a civilized and socially oriented market... Russia requires at least 15-20 years. During this transition period (another "transition period!"—Yu.R.) there will unavoidably be a mixed dual-sector economy in which the state sector combines with the market sector, some prices are fixed and regulated by the state, and some prices are determined freely in the market. Reform should mainly be based on national production strength, not on handouts and promises from abroad.

It may seem to you, esteemed reader, that everything is clear. But that is not the whole story. The real sensation at the conference was the speech by Supreme Soviet

Deputy Chairman Vladimir Ispravnikov. First of all, he announced that the real All-Russia Economic Conference would be held 27-28 July (in other words just before the enlarged session of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers). It will be preceded by a series of regional conferences, of which the current conference is one. And second, he stated that the cochairmen of the All-Russia Conference will be Ruslan Khasbulatov and... Viktor Chernomyrdin.

It was only at this point that the plan hatched by the parliamentarians, who have prepared a mass attack on the present reforms course, finally became clear. It is well known that within the government itself there is no single view on the reforms course. Whereas Anatoliy Chubays and Boris Fedorov remain faithful to the original design, Oleg Lobov and Oleg Soskovets are in favor of making drastic corrections to it using administrative levers. And even Viktor Chernomyrdin himself has frequently stated the need for state regulation of the economy.

And so, on the eve of the enlarged Council of Ministers session, the All-Russia Economic Conference is clearly aiming to exert powerful pressure on members of the government by weakening the position of the market radicals and strengthening the position of those members of the cabinet who are prepared to some extent to use administrative methods of managing the economy.

And behind all this we cannot but glimpse yet another hidden objective: To bring the activity of the executive organs of power fully under the control of administrative [rasporyaditelnyye] organs that are striving to administer the economy directly.

Deputy Minister on Transport Sector's Problems

PM2007085593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 1

[Article by Albert Bevzenko, Russian Federation first deputy transport minister, under the "Economy" rubric: "Inflation is Severely Limiting Opportunities for Stabilizing Traffic"]

[Text] I would say that one of the chief results of the government's activity in the transportation sphere has been to keep the subsectors of the Transport Ministry system—air, sea, river, and motor vehicle transport and highways—in working order. Enterprises in these sectors are functioning with varying degrees of reliability, albeit in very stressful conditions, and the basic tasks of providing Russia with transport services are being carried out.

Transport is no isolated sector. It is so bound up with Russians' needs and with the other sectors of the economy that their problems are transport's problems. The credit and money supply is extremely erratic at the moment and inflation is severely limiting opportunities for stabilizing traffic and even for simple reproduction in the transport sphere. Nonpayment is still a prominent

feature. We are owed and we owe large sums. In the first six months of the year 23 percent of transport enterprises made losses and some of them are on the verge of bankruptcy.

It is not normal for payments to take months to go through the bank. It is the duty of banks throughout the world to serve clients quickly and without delay. If the efficiency is lacking, any bank runs the risk of losing custom. But our banks will not take any responsibility. As a result, it takes months to make payments or obtain credit (for instance, for the delivery of goods to the North), and this disrupts our enterprises' finances and operations.

A stable ruble and a steady money supply are the paramount conditions today for getting things organized in the economy, including transport.

Commission Calls For Indexation of Science Budget

PM2007100793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 3

[Unattributed report under "News Items" rubric: "Below Poverty Line"]

[Text] The funding of Russian science is in a catastrophic state and is having irreparable economic and political consequences. A wave of mass protests by scientists and staffers of scientific establishments is growing. This is stated in an appeal to Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin from the Interdepartmental Coordinating Commission for Scientific and Technical Policy. "Spending on scientific research and development will fall by practically one-fourth," the document points out. "According to the results for the first half-year, scientific establishments failed to receive 137 billion rubles [R] of the R342 billion of planned appropriations." In addition, the scientists declare that, with the adoption of the amplified budget, the intellectual flower of the nation will be cast back down to the poverty line. In order to prevent such a development of events, the appeal proposes ensuring the indexation of the science budget at a level at least the average industrial level and setting it at R1.3-1.4 trillion.

Domestic Energy Prices Set To Increase

PM2007100193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 4

[Unattributed roundup of reports under the "News Service in Action" rubric: "Energy Sources"]

[Text] Russia continues to increase oil and gas exports as extraction continues to fall...

According to Ministry of Fuel and Energy data, in the first six months Russian enterprises extracted 175.19 million tonnes of oil (85.2 percent as against the corresponding period last year) and 318.38 billion cubic

meters of natural gas (98 percent of last year's level). At the same time Russian oil exports totaled 40.40 million tonnes, which is 31.9 percent more than in the first six months of 1992.

...and is planning electricity and gas price increases within the country.

The appropriate decree has already been sent to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin for his signature. Lira Rozenova, chairman of the Committee for Prices Policy, reported that it can be expected to come into force as early as July. At present a decree on a threefold increase of prices for natural gas supplied to apartments, on a 1.5-fold increase of condensed gas prices, and on a threefold increase of prices for supplying heat and water is also being drafted.

Electricity consumers' outstanding debts to the "Lenenergo" Joint-Stock Company totaled 3 billion rubles [R]. Over one-half of debtors are industrial enterprises.

At present the average cost of electricity in Petersburg is the highest in the country—R12 per kilowatt-hour. But, bearing in mind the continuous rise of raw material prices, "Lenenergo" proposes to increase the average rate to R18 per kilowatt-hour.

Central Bank Aides Explain Audit Findings

PM2007082193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 4

[Yelena Kremensova report: "Press Conference: No One Can Undermine the Central Bank's Reputation"]

[Text] It emerges from Mr. Oster's [name as transliterated] letter to the Central Bank leadership that the [London] FINANCIAL TIMES committed a "number of gross inaccuracies" which "extremely distorted" the assessment of the results of Oster's audit of the Bank of Russia's activity in his capacity as an expert.

Aleksandr Khandruyev read out the letter to journalists and noted that this event was also "somewhat distorted" in our press. In particular the newspapers said that not all of the bank's accounts were audited. Then, according to Tatyana Paramonova, deputy chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, journalists surmised which aspects of the Central Bank's activity had remained unexplained.

However, Tatyana Paramonova said that all the accounts were thoroughly audited. By agreement with the Bank of Russia the auditors simply made a number of reservations in their largely positive findings.

In particular, according to Tatyana Paramonova, it will take the Bank of Russia another year to verify for whom the various sums of money left in the accounts of the Central Bank of Russia and commercial banks in all states of the former USSR due to last year's disorganized settlements were destined and by whom they were forwarded.

But Tatyana Paramonova failed to provide an unequivocal answer when asked whether the threat of a crisis of nonpayments now exists. She just explained that the kinds of documents and settlement procedures that helped increase the crisis have now been abolished. And prepayment by payment order is now the main form of settlement.

However, the deputy chairman remarked, the Central Bank still lacks objective information as to the true size of enterprises' reciprocal arrears. And that is due to the fact that the Russian State Committee for Statistics is not calculating the nonpayments, that is, the overdue debts, but is publishing summary data as to enterprises' total arrears, including in these the so-called "short-term" current debts typical of the normal everyday life of any enterprise.

In an endeavor to dispel journalists' concern as to whether the large amount of so-called "unexplained sums" recorded by the audit will affect the Central Bank's reputation, Dmitriy Tulin, deputy chairman of the Bank of Russia, cited the following example.

The Central Bank only had to open several foreign bank correspondent accounts for the Central Bank of Russia to immediately receive from them payments addressed to Russian payees. But not because anyone had bought anything from "us" and was now settling up in hard currency. Payment documents that Russian banks had made out wrongly began returning to the Central Bank en masse. Or documents that had been wrongly addressed to the FRG's central bank—the Deutsche Bundesbank—instead of the commercial Deutsche Bank. In order to avoid the hard work of hunting out the addressee the latter simply sent all these payments to the Bank of Russia saying: Sort it out yourselves. Thus the existence of sums that the Bank of Russia has failed to explain even in international operations cannot undermine its reputation, Dmitriy Tulin concluded.

Officials View Ruble-Dollar Exchange Rate

PM1907145393 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jul 93 Supplement p 1

["Economic Week" review by Yelena Arakelyan and Irina Savvatayeva: "Summer Dollar: Seasonal Sale at Reduced Prices"—from the "Business Contact" Supplement]

[Excerpts] Dmitriy Tulin, deputy chairman of the Central Bank of Russia:

By year's end the ruble's exchange rate will be more stable than in the preceding period. The impact of slowdown of the rate of growth of the credit supply in the first and second quarters will be felt. Many enterprises are beginning to experience a shortage of ruble funds. Therefore they are getting rid of hard currency. Right now Russian enterprises have around \$9 billion accumulated in legal accounts in Russia. In conditions of falling dollar exchange rate and rising interest rates, it is

becoming unprofitable to hang on to these assets. And this could be a major factor on the currencies market. [passage omitted]

Sergey Aleksashenko, Russian Federation deputy minister of finance:

The dollar exchange rate will gradually stabilize and will remain within the band of 1,000-1,200 rubles [R] to the dollar over the next three months.

For at least this period of time, I think, three important factors ensuring the growth of hard currency on the market will be obtained. First, in line with recently adopted decisions, exporters are allowed to deposit a smaller proportion of the hard currency they earn with the Central Bank and sell more on the market. Second, the ruble will be supported through the \$1.5 billion being granted to Russia by the IMF. And, finally, this reinforcement of the national currency is required today in order to attain some kind of equilibrium in export and import relations. The growth of the dollar exchange rate was beneficial to exporters, but did not satisfy importers.

However, the dollar will not fall heavily. In the interests of macroeconomics I would keep it stable, reducing the exchange rate here by somewhere around R1 per week. After all, today many of the deals concluded in the country are geared toward the dollar.

Therefore a stable dollar for about three months could be a stabilizing anchor for the whole economy.

What will happen in the long term is at the moment hard to surmise. Much depends on how inflation behaves. How much will coal and oil cost? Now the coal workers are declaring that they will raise prices tenfold! But who will pay them this sort of money? I think no one will pay more than three times as much.

Andrey Illarionov, leader of the Russian Federation prime minister's analysis and planning group:

At the basis of the hard currency exchange rate lies the ratio of prices for goods bought and sold on the external market.

Since the Russian economy remained closed and uncompetitive for a very long time, the difference between internal prices and world market prices was huge. In December 1991 the level of world prices exceeded the level of internal prices 70 times over.

However, in the past 18 months internal prices have risen significantly. On basic foodstuffs their level today already constitutes 15 percent of the world level. It would be no bad thing for us in the next three-five years to reach the mark of about 40 percent. And this means that prices will grow faster than the dollar exchange rate.

Whereas in January 1992 the share of export revenue regularly sold on the currencies market came to 2 percent, in March 1993 it came to almost 4 percent. Hard currency obtained on the stock exchange is, naturally,

expended on imports. In March 1993 already one-half of our imports were paid for with currency bought on the exchange. That means that the economy is beginning to accept the existing exchange rate. And the talk that it is "crazy" and "abnormal" only means that this exchange rate is nipping inefficient imports in the bud.

The reduction of the dollar exchange rate in the last six weeks is partly attributable to seasonal factors: The demand for hard currency is less in the summer. In the last two weeks the decision on the mandatory sale of 50 percent of exporters' hard currency earnings to the commercial banks has also played its part. But the main influence on the currencies market has been exerted by the new Central Bank instruction on limits on the so-called open currency position. It provides for restrictions on the amount of hard currency which banks can keep in their accounts—depending on the size of their own funds.

As a result it is costing the Central Bank colossal efforts to shore up the dollar exchange rate today: Massive ruble interventions are being carried out. That is to say that the situation of June-July 1993 is directly opposite to the situation during the same period in 1992, when the Central Bank's hard currency interventions reached 70 percent of the total hard currency sales.

Evidently, by the end of the summer, the exchange rate will be fluctuating around the R1,100 to the dollar mark, at most R1,200 to the dollar.

What will happen in the fall? Since the growth of prices will continue (somewhere around 20 percent per month), the level of prices will draw still nearer to the world level. This will make the export of a number of commodities unprofitable. Consequently, exports will have a tendency to fall, and imports to increase. Hard currency earnings and the hard currency supply will decrease, the demand for rubles will increase, and the dollar and exchange rate will again slowly drift upwards.

Military Issues

Grachev: Ministry 'Will Take Up Arms' To Defend Dachas

PM1907202593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

["Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" column report: "'Gentlemen' in the Dachas"]

[Text] If need be, the Ministry of Defense will take up arms to defend its dachas.

This was stated by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev at a session of the Council of Ministers-Government Presidium. This statement by the defense minister was a reply to the proposal of Ella Pamfilova, minister for social protection, to auction these dachas and channel the proceeds into the needs of the disadvantaged.

Chernomyrdin Cited on Western Group of Forces

PM2007101193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Jul 93 p 3

[Vadim Markushin report: "We Will Be Working For the Future in the Military Sphere"]

[Text] This [reference to paper's headline] was stated by Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, addressing the leaders of the Western Group of Forces. As he put it, scientific and technical development projects need to be continued. The government is seeking the necessary funds for this.

Answering this KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent's question about what he thinks of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, V. Chernomyrdin said: "I take a very serious view of it. After all, we are essentially talking about Russia's borders. This kind of piracy cannot be forgiven. Retribution should be inevitable. The people will understand us."

Touching on the problems of the Western Group of Forces, including the most acute problem—housing—the Russian premier promised to reexamine it at state level and to strive for the adoption of additional measures to accelerate housing construction for the unhoused families of servicemen.

Reporters Excluded From Security Conference

PM1907142593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Igor Andreyev report: "Russia's Security Concept Discussed Behind Closed Doors"]

[Text] A conference on "The Russian Federation's Security Concept: Problems of Formulation and Implementation" was held in the Russian Federation Defense Ministry's conference hall 16 July. Judging from its program and the participants, the discussion should have been on a high intellectual level.

Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council, opened the conference and pointed out that, having abandoned the previous antagonistic, class-based security concept whereby the USSR divided the world into enemies and allies, often not in our country's real, long-term interests, Russia has today been left without a scientifically sound, comprehensive approach to this problem. We are still unable, Marshal Shaposhnikov said, to determine the source of the threat to Russia's security and who our enemies and allies are. When we make a statement designed to cool hotheads in various parts of the globe, we often get a surprise result and gain enemies among states that are neutral or friendly to Russia.

Ye. Shaposhnikov outlined the main elements of Russia's security concept and called on the conference participants to contribute towards its development. Journalists invited to the Defense Ministry's conference hall picked up their pens to take notes on the statements by S. Shakhrai, S. Stepashin, A. Kozyrev, V. Yerin, V. Barannikov, S. Shoygu, G.

Arbatov, and other speakers. Regrettably, the journalistic and photographic fraternity was asked to leave the room unexpectedly—at least it came as a surprise to me, having prepared myself to spend the whole day at the conference. We were invited to a press conference in the evening just a few minutes before IZVESTIYA's Moscow edition was signed to press.

It cannot be denied that the country's security is an extremely serious matter, but was it necessary to invite the press along for just the ceremonial event before an important conference, the first of its kind?

Draft Shortfall May Result in 'Critical Situation'

PM1907125193 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 1

[Oleg Vladykin report: "Not Enough Draftees"]

[Text] A press conference held by the Russian Federation Defense Ministry was devoted to the results of the spring draft of young people to military service this year. The journalists there were addressed by Lieutenant General Vladimir Bondartsev, first deputy chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff Main Organizational-Mobilization Directorate.

He reported that the latest draft of citizens to military service has passed off in an organized way and has now been concluded. The plan for the recruitment of a reinforcement of young people established by the Russian Federation president has been fully carried out. A total of 170,000 young men have been dispatched into the Armed Forces, the troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Security, and other military formations.

But, the general stressed, this number of new recruits has only met 13 percent of the real requirements of the troops and naval forces. The point is that as of 1 January 1993 just over 1.8 million men of draft age were on the military register in Russia, but it only proved possible to directly enlist 16 percent of these. All the others, in accordance with the provisions of the Russian Federation Law "On Military Service Obligation and Military Service," are making use of the right of deferment.

Aware of the difficult situation as regards manpower acquisition in the troops and naval forces, the Ministry of Defense has for its part adopted a number of measures which have made it possible to achieve a certain easing of the acuteness of this problem. Thus, in 1992 and in the first half of 1993, the staff level of privates and sergeants in the Armed Forces was reduced by over 500,000 men. At the same time, a specific number of soldiers' duties are continuing to be taken over by civilian personnel. Then, in January 1993, servicemen started being recruited into the Army and Navy on a contract basis.

Nevertheless, given the present staffing level, many military units still cannot perform normal daily activity even at a minimum level.

During last year and this year, the Ministry of Defense has repeatedly submitted to the Supreme Soviet and the Russian Government proposals to stabilize the situation concerning staffing levels in the troops. In particular, on regulating citizens' deferments to the draft for military service. However, no sufficiently realistic measures have yet resulted from this. As a result, following the spring draft, the Armed Forces are only ~~by~~ 51 percent of the due number of privates and sergeants.

The proposed staffing level in military units in respect of privates and sergeants may be 30-35 percent on average as of 1 January 1994. As for prospects of compensating the shortfall in draft resources by means of extending contract service, this work is at the incipient stage at the moment, and will not exert any significant influence on raising the staffing levels in the troops and naval forces in the next two-three years.

A critical situation will develop in the Armed Forces if emergency measures are not adopted to resolve this problem. The situation may only be remedied at legislative level.

Arzamas-16 Official on Nuclear Arms System Situation

LD1807085493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0735 GMT 18 Jul 93

[From the "Military Review" program]

[Text] This atomic weaponry is no longer in fashion. It has been replaced by newer, more secret examples at military bases. We are all involved in its creation, by taxes, by the minds of talented academics and specialists and workers. Arzamas-16 has always been just as essential and inalienable a part of statehood as the gold reserve. It was here that the definition party to a complex secret was heard: This is what they call people who know the secrets of fearful weaponry.

But the waves of change have rolled here as well. To be honest, they are very strange ones. The Federal Nuclear Center does not have any money for wages. Our nuclear specialists are unwillingly becoming intellectual beggars. You get the impression that because of the general crisis the state border around the closed city is collapsing. Not long ago it would have been impossible to imagine hectic rallies in these workshops.

[Yu. A. Trutnev, academician] The nuclear arms system must now be completely changed in accordance with the new military-political conditions. What sort of system should there be? We, as it were, are thinking significantly about that; we are considering and discussing it, and there are various suggestions. But as you understand, it is not completely clear even up above, not on military doctrine, not really, or on what sort of arms system there should be. At the moment consideration and discussion and development of this general point of view, about what the nuclear arms system should be all about, is still going on.

Supreme Soviet

Parliament Chambers Examine Budget Problems

LD1907161793 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1454
GMT 19 Jul 93

[By *ITAR-TASS* parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow July 19 TASS—The joint meeting of the Russian parliament's chambers today was devoted to the discussion of the specified figures of the 1993 republican budget. Lawmakers examined a total of 400 amendments to the law "On the republican budget of the Russian Federation for 1993", which are mostly associated with the need to index-link virtually all spending items adopted previously.

At the same time, parliament revised a range of key items. Specifically, it deemed it necessary to increase the share of spending on investments and defence. Members of parliament did not agree with the government's proposal to decrease somewhat state expenditures at the expense of some of the budget's social items.

Clarifying the situation around the budget, Council of the Republic Chairman Veniamin Sokolov noted that the variant of the republican budget's specified indicators presented by the government for this year "is of the clearly-expressed anti-social nature."

At a press conference organised during a break between the morning and evening sessions, Sokolov said deputies did not agree to reduce deductions to the pension and social insurance funds.

Commenting on forecasts by specialists who maintain that the Russian budget deficit will amount approximately to 19 trillion roubles this year, Sokolov said "there will be no deficit if the government puts things in the foreign economic activity in order."

He presented to journalists the copy of a letter by Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fedorov addressed to Ruslan Khasbulatov saying that Russia's aid to developing countries in the form of credits, reduced prices and cash transfer totalled 17 billion dollars last year, according to estimates by the International Monetary Fund. At the same time, the Russian Finance Ministry estimated that up to 40 per cent of incomes "evade taxation" and do not accrue to the state treasury.

Baburin's Proposal To Give Money to Sevastopol Rejected

LD1907165093 Moscow *Radio Rossii Network in Russian* 1600 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet has thrown out an amendment to the law on the republican budget concerning the financing of the town of Sevastopol. *ITAR-TASS* reports that a suggestion to make 1 billion rubles available to the town was made by Deputy Sergey

Baburin, who justified it by saying that a political decision on the status of Sevastopol can be underpinned by an economic decision. The proposal was thrown out on the basis of the fact that Sevastopol is not a member of the Federation and hence is not eligible for its own budget assignments.

Further on Parliament Passing Military Budget

PM2007113193 Moscow *KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian* 20 Jul 93 p 1

[Vladimir Maryukha report: "Parliament Ratifies Defense Spending. Military Budget at Last Year's Level"]

[Text] After examining the clarified indicators for the republic's budget in 1993, 17 July's Russian parliament session ratified defense spending of over 8 trillion rubles [R]. This item of expenditure has been increased by R1.7 trillion over the sum requested by the government. But we should not be talking about defense spending having been increased, for these changes are merely an offering "sacrificed on the altar" of inflation—or, as economists would say, indexation. That is why the amount of military spending ratified by parliament will not require yet another piece of the budget "pie" but is merely equivalent to the amount set at the start of the year.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA readers know from our previous articles that the military budget had already been cut to the bone [*sverstan po minimumu*]. But the government—specifically the Finance Ministry—intended to push through parliament amendments which would not only fail to correspond to the proposed indexation coefficient of 2.1, but would also "eat up" part of the benefits envisaged under the law "On the Status of Servicemen," whose passage was so difficult.

But this time the corps of deputies agreed more with the amendments made by the parliamentary committees and commissions than with the government's proposals. At the session that opened 19 July, parliament continued its discussion of items of budget expenditure, including the proposals to suspend certain articles of the law "On the Status of Servicemen." But the savings on the benefits envisaged by this law would not even amount to 0.1 percent, while the funds being allocated should be enough primarily to carry out all the state's obligations to servicemen.

Moreover, as Oleg Glushakov, an expert with the parliamentary Defense and Security Committee, explained, in connection with the 1 July increase in the minimum wage, the government is also obliged to increase the level of servicemen's pay—the indexation of the defense budget covers this expenditure as well. Yet will it not be the case that the decision to increase pay will be made, but the money will only be paid out several months later, when inflation will have canceled out the indexation? After all, the Finance Ministry already owes the Defense Ministry more than R1 trillion, and regularly allocates no more than 30 percent of the amounts needed for

current requirements. The other 70 percent is delayed with a view to making "savings," without taking account of the spending needed to cover inflation.

By the time this issue of the paper had already been put to bed, parliament was to due to have completed its discussion of the budget as a whole. Only then will it be possible to say how defense budget funds will be distributed item by item, including funds for the social needs of servicemen and the implementation of the articles of the law "On the Status of Servicemen." But the important point is not which budget item will benefit from the most indexation—purchases of armaments and components for obsolescent equipment, or benefits for servicemen. It is important that the funds go where they should be allocated. Otherwise the millstone of inflation will inexorably grind the money down into dust, and once again the Army will be left with nothing.

Parliament Rejects New Tax To Support Coal Industry

LD2007092093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0825 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—The Russian parliament rejected on Tuesday [20 July] the proposal of the government to introduce a new tax in order to support the coal industry and agriculture.

According to the proposal, all enterprises had to pay an additional duty equal to seven per cent of the value added tax into a fund of financial support for the two industries.

Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of the parliamentary Budget and Planning Commission, warned that the new tax "can result in negative consequences and increase the tax burden of the state".

First Deputy Chairman of the parliament Yuriy Voronin also opposed the proposal of the government.

Parliament Passes Anti-Corruption Bill

LD2007104693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1009 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Jul—The Russian Federation parliament passed the anti-corruption bill today. Article 1 of this law defines its aim as ensuring the security of the state and the operation of the system of legislative, executive, and judicial powers, and of bodies of authority, in accordance with the Constitution and Russian Federation laws by preventing and intercepting corruption-related crimes. Corruption is understood as public servants using the opportunities of their status to illegally obtain material or other benefits and privileges.

This legislative act establishes that corruption-related crime entails disciplinary, civil, legal, administrative, and criminal responsibility. The law is valid in the Russian Federation and also abroad, with regard to individuals and companies of the Russian state. Anti-corruption work is the responsibility of all state and municipal bodies and all public servants, who should carry it out within their jurisdictions. Acts and actions resulting from corruption-related crimes can be annulled.

The Supreme Soviet has instructed the government to adopt within three months the appropriate legal acts to implement the provisions of the anti-corruption law and to bring earlier decisions in line with it.

Parliament Decides Khasbulatov Entitled to State Planes

LD2007130093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1212 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—The Russian Parliament decided to bypass President Boris Yeltsin and ensure to its speaker a free access to military planes and ships for home and foreign trips.

In a resolution adopted Tuesday [20 July] legislators instructed the defence ministry to provide the parliament chairman and other authorised lawmakers with aircraft and military vessels, equipped with government communication means, for foreign and home trips at the expense of the parliament.

The issue was included into the agenda after Ruslan Khasbulatov was denied a military plane for a trip across Russia.

Head of the presidential staff Sergey Filatov explained that after the hard-line coup in August 1991 the use of air force jets by top officials was allowed only upon a permission of the president. He added that Khasbulatov had not requested such a permission.

Regional Affairs

Khasbulatov Addresses Conference in Vladimir

LD1907154393 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] The Speaker of the Russian Parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov, addressing in Vladimir the Conference of Delegates of the Soviets of Central Russia, has called to establish control over regional mass media.

The speaker believes that mass media threatens the existence of the legislative power in Russia.

Mr. Khasbulatov also said that the current stabilisation of the ruble is artificial and by autumn the dollar will cost 2,000 rubles.

The speaker made it clear again that he would like to see a government in Russia that would be subordinate to parliament.

Rutskoy Visit to Blagoveshchensk Viewed

PM2007105993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 Jul 93 p 1

[Nikolay Belyy commentary: "Who Is Paying for Rutskoy's Trips?"]

[Text] Citizens of Blagoveshchensk and their guests learned of Aleksandr Rutskoy's arrival in the city from militia car sirens and the strict orders of the State Motor Vehicle Inspection Administration that all transport should stop and let through a motorcade with a high-ranking dignitary on a hot day last Saturday [17 July].

The official reason for the visit to the banks of the Amur River, which on the face of it is difficult to understand, was to participate in celebrations of Blagoveshchensk's 150th anniversary. It is difficult to understand because, hardly had Rutskoy set foot in this distant part of Russia than he himself asserted that the trip is almost private by nature, he is not empowered to resolve any questions on the spot, and he does not even possess the resources to fund it and he and his entourage have been forced more or less to dip into their own pockets for their own expenses. Incidentally, so that Aleksandr Vladimirovich did not have to spend much money on the banks of the Amur River, the oblast soviet of people's deputies footed the bill.

The vice president did not say anything new to residents of the Amur region at his meetings with activists from the oblast and city soviets and journalists. He predicted an unfortunate future for the Russian Government which, he said, will be booted out, and called the Constitutional Conference a "parade of clowns." While on the banks of the Amur River, he also said that the USSR's collapse was the work of the "three Belovezhskaya Forest lumberjacks," that in recent times about 1 million former Soviet citizens had perished, and that he, Rutskoy, "will simply not permit" Russia to be abused.

The vice president "sounded the reveille" to the inhabitants of the Far East begging them: "Wake up, respected people, the day of reckoning is close at hand." It did not escape the journalists that much time during Rutskoy's stay on the banks of the Amur River was given over to meetings with the military—unit and combined unit commanders, representatives of the command of one of the armies stationed in the Amur region, and cadets of the Far Eastern Command School. The organizers of the reception requested local television journalists who recorded these meetings not to put their footage on the airwaves...

Aleksandr Rutskoy arrived in Khabarovsk yesterday. He is proposing to hold a conference of leaders of the kray's administration and soviet of deputies.

Further on Khabarovsk Visit

OW1907144593 Khabarovsk Radio Khabarovsk Network in Russian 0845 GMT 19 Jul 93

[From the Kray News" program]

[Text] Aleksandr Rutskoy, vice president of Russia, has arrived in Khabarovsk for a working visit. Today, he met with leaders of the kray soviet and the administration.

[Begin Rutskoy recording] This is already my sixth public opinion study trip this month. Each region and territory of the Federation has its own specific features, and the economic and political situation differs in each territory. Hence, the reason for the study trip. First, the situation today is such that, according to European standards, our economy has already been in hyper-crisis for a long time. When the decline in production figures begin to exceed 20 percent, that is the reaction—hyper-crisis. This can be called a deep crisis, because in many directions we have already exceeded 40 percent and in some cases even 50 percent decline in production. That is why everyone is occupied with the issue of formulating a program for all of the people [obshchenarodnaya] as a way out of the crisis and to institute reforms. We cannot continue to live this way because the move to market relations, the new economic relations, today largely manifests itself negatively, and because it turns out that we need 10-12 years to restructure and return to the level of 1990. Today, if we again start forming a program under a certain political figure or leader, it will become unrealistic and it would not be possible to realize it. The future is for a program for all of the people and will contain economic and political reform, the building of the state, and legislative reform.

I have finished the book about the present and the future of Russia. The scope of this book is quite large. Fifty percent of the book is an analysis of the situation and the reasons why we find ourselves in it. The other 50 percent of the book sets out the program for all of the people, the move to the new economic relations and way out of the crisis. So, to introduce corrections or additions it is necessary to study public opinion, which, in fact, is what I am doing. [end recording]

Three Killed in Armed Clashes in North Ossetia

LD2007091293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0837 GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz July 20 TASS—Armed clashes continue in the area of state-of-emergency regulations on the territories of North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

According to operational data made available to ITAR-TASS by the North Ossetia Security Council on Tuesday [20 July], three Ossets were killed and one wounded on Monday night during a clash at the kilning mill quarry on the outskirts of the Ossetian village of Terk between

an armed group of Ingushes and economic facilities guarding personnel and police patrol.

On the same day, two dead bodies of Ossets with gunshot wounds in the head and chest were found on a mountain slope where they had been busy mowing grass.

The security council confirmed information that an attempt at a sabotage act was thwarted at the farmers' central market in Vladikavkaz. A bag with with a powerful explosive device—two toluene pots, two anti-tank grenades and three kilogrammes of nails for the dispersal of fragments—and a timing mechanism was left by two unidentified women among the trading stalls..

By a lucky chance, the device did not explode.

State of Emergency Zone 'Tense'

LD1907131093 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1239 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz July 19 TASS— Although the situation in the state of emergency zone in North Ossetia and Ingushetia is fully under control of Russian peace keepers and local law enforcement forces, the situation in the area is tense.

Local seats of confrontation emerge due to the presence of great numbers of firearms possessed by local population.

According to estimates of military peace keepers, crime is rampant in the region. Ten crimes were registered over the past 24 hours. Three crimes were exposed right after they were committed.

Partial re-grouping of the Russian peace-keeping force was made on orders from head of the interim administration Viktor Polyanichko. Peace keepers now concentrate along the border between North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

They will bar armed bandit groups from infiltrating into the conflict zone, thwart the capture of hostages, arsons and robberies.

North Ossetia and Ingushetia have not exchanged hostages for over six months. In the meantime, a search group from the Russian Interior Ministry and a mixed commission, seeking to continue the exchange, process specific addresses day and night, collect information on hostages as well as missing people, detect burial places of those killed and try to establish their identities.

Tomsk Oblast To Hold Referendum on Status 3 Oct

LD2007033393 Moscow *Radio Rossii Network in Russian* 0300 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] A referendum in Tomsk Oblast on republican status within the Russian Federation has been called for

3 October, *Ekspress-Khronika* reports. The chairman of the Tomsk Oblast Soviet, Grigoriy Shamin, said that the referendum will cost 320 million rubles.

Maritime Kray Threatens To Adopt Republic Status

LD1907220993 Moscow *Mayak Radio Network in Russian* 2100 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] If the Russian government fails to endorse the draft document concerning the expansion of the rights of Maritime Kray, we will simply be compelled to adopt the status of a republic, in order to get an opportunity to extricate ourselves from a prolonged economic crisis. This was stated by Yevgeniy Nazdratenko, head of Maritime Kray administration.

During the last visit of a Maritime Kray delegation to Moscow, the president of Russia was presented with this draft document, which was drawn up in the kray. According to the document, it is necessary to put the sum total of federal taxes and dues at the disposal of the kray's authorities for the period of surmounting the crisis; and to establish preferential rates, compatible with those in force in the regions of the extreme north, for the delivery and transit of consumer goods and the sales of electric power. Apart from that, the administration intends to establish its own fishery quotas and to make its own decisions on the granting of licenses for the export of output produced in the kray.

Beginning next week, Maritime Kray will be visited by the ministers of the economy, of the fuel and energy complex, of foreign economic ties and, on 15 August, by Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin. The decision that will be adopted will depend on the results of these visits. Moreover, Maritime Kray firmly intends to defend its economic freedoms, even if it fails to meet with understanding on the part of Moscow.

Bashkir Republic Plans To Adopt Own Constitution

LD1907141293 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1341 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Raul Tukhvatullin]

[Text] Ufa July 19 TASS—Chairman of Bashkortostan's Supreme Soviet Murtaza Rakhimov criticized sharply the results of the Constitutional Assembly in a televised speech on Monday [19 July].

Rakhimov accused the organizers of the assembly of "unwillingness to heed the voices from the provinces" and of attempts "to adopt the constitution in a hurried and illegal manner".

"My firm decision is not to initial it," he said.

Bashkortostan cannot approve of either "presidential", or "parliamentary" draft constitution, he added.

Under the circumstances, "we will have to adopt Bashkortostan's own constitution at the beginning of October", he said.

Rakhimov did not specify the way he saw the new fundamental law of Bashkortostan would treat relations between the central government in Moscow and the republic.

Magadan Appeal on Status of Chukotka Okrug Rejected

PM1907103793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jul 93 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report under the "Federation Chronicle" rubric: "Magadan"]

[Text] The Russian Constitutional Court has turned down the Magadan Oblast Soviet's request to deem unlawful the granting of the status of a component within [subjekt v sostave] the Russian Federation to the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug. A session of the Magadan Oblast Soviet took note of the decision to place the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug under Russia's jurisdiction.

Vologda Soviet: Top Officials Lack Regional Information

PM1907085593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 4

[Report by Viktor Filippov: "Russian President Has No Reliable Information About Regions—That is the Vologda Deputies' Opinion"]

[Text] Having discussed the Russian president's statement about the proclamation of the Urals and Vologda republics, the Inner Soviet in Vologda concluded that the top state officials do not have reliable information about the real state of affairs in the regions.

According to the deputies, the "Vologda republic" was thought up by the central press. In actual fact the decision of the 14 May oblast soviet session said that "the oblast is a component part of the Russian Federation and has the status of a state-territorial component of the Russian Federation and has all rights on an equal basis with the republics which form Russia."

"I think that the workers of the president's apparatus have failed to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the documents adopted by our session," says Aleksey Maklakhov, deputy chairman of the Vologda Oblast soviet. "And they lumped the oblast with the 'Urals Republic.' We sent all the documents promptly to the congress, Supreme Soviet, president, and Constitutional Court asking them to examine them and provide a conclusion. Six weeks have passed and there has been no answer. The inner soviet has decided to resend the package of documents about Vologda Oblast's new status to the Russian president."

Vorkuta Miners Stage One-Hour Warning Strike

LD1907163093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1602 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Makarov]

[Text] Vorkuta (Republic of Komi) July 19 TASS—All thirteen mines and mine building departments in Vorkuta have conducted a one-hour warning strike today. This protest action has been organized in connection with mass lay-offs of miners. Miners of Vorkuta demand that the Government of Russia stop sacking of workers in the coal industry until a special program on closing its enterprises is adopted, and their workers are given real social guarantees. The miners also insist on an immediate meeting of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and chairman of the Council of Ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin with a delegation of the Vorkuta miners to consider the present situation and look for a way out of it.

Today the problem concerns closing seven mines in Vorkuta, including three of them to be closed already this year. It has been announced already about laying-off the first 305 workers from the "Yun-Yaga" coal mine. It is planned to lay-off over 3,000 workers from these mines in the near future.

It is very difficult to find a job in Vorkuta now. To move to other regions for permanent residence is very expensive. Over 30,000 pensioners in Vorkuta cannot afford doing this now despite their wish to do so.

Miners of Vorkuta demand making Vorkuta a closed city to limit the inflow of manpower to this city. Miners set up a special commission on working out an economic program for the Pechora River coal basin's recovery from the recession. The demands of miners in this polar city include privatizing of mines and other enterprises of the coal industry in the interests of their workers' collectives.

It is planned tomorrow to hold an enlarged meeting of representatives and managers of all mines, trade unions, the city workers' committee to discuss the problem of prices for coal extracted in Vorkuta, the general present situation and the possible actions in the struggle for their rights and interests.

It is also decided to resume on August 5-6 the interrupted third city conference of miners of Vorkuta with the aim of agreeing about "more resolute actions" if the government of the Russian Federation does not take emergency measures to resolve the problems raised by participants in today's warning strike.

Moscow Vice Premier Cited on Food Supply Problems

PM1907132793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jul 93 Second Edition p 2

[Interview with Vitaliy Morozov, vice premier of Moscow, by Matvey Glebov; place and date not given:

"At Capital's City Hall They Are Not Yet Speaking of a 'Lifeline' or 'Blockade' but Are Concerned for the City's Provision with Food"]

[Text] The correspondence between the Moscow mayor and the Russian prime minister is in general a routine phenomenon which can hardly be of interest to the reader. Which cannot be said of the recent letter from Yuriy Luzhkov to Viktor Chernomyrdin, since it voiced extreme concern over the situation of supplying the capital with food.

"An alarming situation has taken shape primarily because a number of federal departments are, to put it mildly, failing to fulfill the Russian Government decree no. 482, which is actually called 'On Food Supplies for Moscow,'" explained Moscow Vice Premier Vitaliy Morozov, leader of the food resources department. "The decree was adopted 21 May but there is still no headway. The quarter is coming to an end and we must urgently decide questions of financing, credit, and guarantees—as in the joke they are still looking for the hat..."

[Glebov] Who do you have in mind exactly?

[Morozov] What do you mean, who? The Ministry of Finances, the Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Committee for Trade are the general client bound to supply us from the federal fund. Another big debtor is the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, which has a precise import target but somehow the results of the fulfillment of this target are not to be seen. Frankly, our regions are also behaving disgracefully: They sell meat locally at one price and to Moscow at a price that is 50 percent higher. And this, let me note, when the capital is handing over part of its budget to the regions. They sometimes say: In Russia there is everything. Well, Russia has only one Moscow.

[Glebov] I heard that the question of fulfilling decree no. 482 had been put on the agenda of the Russian Council of Ministers presidium?

[Morozov] They have included it, and many times, but they have also taken it off, so to speak. On 13 July it should have been on the agenda—but it was taken off again.

[Glebov] Allow me to put a straightforward question: How many days' food does Moscow have left?

[Morozov] I would not put the question so drastically. Believe me, there are no grounds for panic. I believe there is no need to introduce words like "blockade" and "lifeline" to our vocabulary. But it is intolerable to delay the solution of the problem of supplying the capital.

Dudayev Forms Council To Coordinate Security Operations

LD2007083093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev has signed a decree setting up a security coordination council under the president of the republic. The document notes that this step is being taken to implement centralized management and control of all law-enforcement, national security, and armed force structures and to ensure effective cooperation among them.

Chechnya Concerned Over Ousting of Abulfaz Elchibey

MK2007092093 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No 35, 20 Jul 93 (signed to press 19 Jul 93) p 4

[LOGOTIP-KP news agency report under the rubric "In the Newspapers of Newly Independent States," from the Azerbaijani newspaper ZERKALO (MIRROR)]

[Text] Officials in the Chechen national administration said that Chechnya was concerned over the deposing of President Abulfaz Elchibey. The reason for this is that until recently the Chechen Republic's international relations were maintained in part via Azerbaijan. In particular, Dzhokhar Dudayev's flights to foreign countries were carried out precisely this way. In addition, Chechnya had an opportunity to use Azerbaijan's flag to carry out its export and import operations. According to a high-ranking Chechen official, "political changes in Azerbaijan may break this practice, and Chechnya may lose its 'way of life.'"

International Affairs

Legislator Denies Nuclear Missiles Taken 'Off Alert'

LD2007044393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0400 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Kiev has denied a report by Ostankino Television's "Itogi" program that 10 nuclear missiles have been taken off alert in Ukraine. Incidentally, IZVESTIYA and Mayak have also reported this. According to a new report, the warheads remain in the republic. Volodymyr Yavorivskyy, a Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium member, told EKSPRESS-KHRONIKA that he knows of no such thing. Missiles can only be taken off alert after Ukraine has ratified the START I Treaty, he said. Yavorivskyy stressed that the chairman of the Chernobyl disaster commission, Ukrainian President Kravchuk, can decide to ratify the treaty only with parliament's consent.

Russian Parliament Approves Draft Nuclear Agreements

AU1907133293 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 16 Jul 93 p 11

[Report on ITAR-TASS statement: "Russia is Ready To Provide Our AES With Fuel"]

[Text] The government of the Russian Federation has approved the Russian-Ukrainian intergovernmental draft agreements on the utilization of nuclear charges and on the status of "S" facilities located on the territory of Ukraine. Now, the agreements need to be signed at the level of governments of Russia and Ukraine.

In accordance with the draft agreements, Russia undertakes to utilize nuclear charges and process the highly enriched uranium that remains after nuclear warheads are destroyed, to produce low-grade uranium for the needs of Ukrainian AES. The Russian side will also guarantee long-term storage of nuclear components after the utilization of nuclear charges.

The formations of nuclear technology troops—the "S" facilities that are stationed in Ukraine and that are meant for storing and servicing nuclear charges will, in accordance with the draft agreements, be subordinated to the Russian Ministry of Defense for a period of time until the nuclear weapons are totally destroyed. Russia also undertakes to conduct scientific-technological monitoring of the maintenance of the nuclear weapons while they are stationed on the territory of Ukraine and to carry out a whole multitude of measures for guaranteeing the safety of these warheads.

Officials Offer Assurances of Warheads' Safety

AU2007101893 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 15 Jul 93 p 2

[Mykhaylo Soroka report: "Why Did the President Visit the Missile Base?"]

[Text] Who can doubt that the Ukrainian president, who is also head of the Defense Council and commander in chief of our state's Armed Forces, possesses the necessary information on questions of Ukraine's defense capability? Including, of course, information on the strategic nuclear weapons located on Ukrainian soil. However, people say very much to the point: It is better to see once than to hear one hundred times. That is why Leonid Kravchuk's decision to visit one of the missile bases and to assess on the spot the combat readiness of the missilemen and the conditions of their service seems to be perfectly logical. All the more so since the strategic military units stationed in Ukraine are at the focus of attention of politicians, diplomats, and the world press.

As already reported, in particular in the pages of URYADOVYY KURYER, last Friday [9 July] the Ukrainian president visited one of the missile regiments. He attentively examined a missile with a nuclear warhead, went down to the underground center for controlling the complex, and had a long conversation with commanders of missile units and with officers and soldiers on duty near the missiles. What was the subject of the conversations during these meetings? Practically all questions raised by the missilemen dealt with their material situation, conditions of the remuneration for their work, travel to other CIS states, and prospects for taking the missiles off combat status and dismantling them. However, nobody said that anything was wrong with the maintenance of the nuclear explosives or that the radioactive background allegedly constituted about 3,000 milliroentgen at the surface of some of them. It is precisely this point and this figure which were quoted in the short article "Why Did the President and the Minister of Defense Fly to Vinnytsya and Khmelnytsky After All?" published by KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in its 10 July 1993 issue. The newspaper, quoting an officer who called the editorial board, presented himself as a specialist in nuclear missile weapons, and asked not to be named, asserted that the true goal of the trip by the president and minister of defense was their concern about the state of the nuclear explosives. The thing is, said the article, that the life of the hydrogen absorbers that cover the main parts of the missiles has allegedly expired and that they need to be immediately replaced. Such "casings" are allegedly available in storehouses belonging to Russia that are situated in one of Ukraine's eastern oblasts. However, the Russian command refuses to supply them to Khmelnytsky facilities. Can you imagine what a hazard this may involve? This means a hundred Chernobyls, asserted the anonymous officer in the telephone conversation.

Are there not enough worries, shortcomings, and fears in our life, to have yet another scarecrow added to the list? The KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI issue with the aforementioned article was published the day after the president's trip. For that reason, we journalists who took part in it could not, directly at the missile base, interview those people who know about the actual situation better than anybody else, on the allegations dealt with in the

publication. We may only assert that others present, in particular commander of the rocket army Volodymyr Mykhtyuk and the army chief engineer Viktor Bakhayev, did not express any anxiety about the state of the nuclear charges or their hazard to maintenance personnel or the environment. Both the missile regiments and the army as a whole are generally fulfilling their duties properly.

How does the problem of the nuclear weapons safety look on the scale of the whole of Ukraine? The URYA-DOVYY KURYER editorial board turned with this question to Lieutenant General Oleksiy Leontiyovych Kryzhko, chief of the center for administrative control of Ukraine's strategic nuclear troops. There is, perhaps, no need to prove, he said, that nuclear charges are a serious thing and that they need constant maintenance that involves many procedures and components, including replacement of certain units and parts. Speaking about supplies that are necessary for the maintenance of the warheads, indeed, there are problems there: There are attempts to put us in a situation in which we would be compelled to give up our nuclear warheads. Does this create a danger? No, it does not, because here our missilemen's high professionalism comes into effect. They are capable of preventing any emergency situation. If things come to their worst, the specialists will remove the charge from the missile and take it to a special storage site or to the manufacturing plant. In other words, we are in full control of the situation and know everything about the warheads on the territory of Ukraine.

I want to stress that no deviations from admissible radiation norms could be detected at combat positions, or, as they say, the situation is normal. As concerns the storage sites, special conditions for storage and access are observed there, and these conditions are also under strict control.

The aforementioned article, continued O.L. Kryzhko, mentions protective "casings." This points to the fact that the anonymous officer is not familiar with this problem in depth. Had he been one of our people, he would not have touched upon it. It follows from this that he is not one of those who are well informed about our specifics and does not know the actual situation. We have resolved the problem of the complex absorbers of hydrogen (incidentally, not only of hydrogen, but also of some other substances).

I am far from being inclined, Oleksiy Leontiyovych concluded, to idealize the situation regarding the nuclear missiles. There certainly are problems there. Not only are the Ukrainian president, government, and the Ministry of Defense well aware of them, but they also are working on resolving them. The Ukrainian parliament is studying these problems in detail. Drafts of corresponding agreements with Russia have been prepared. However, to say that the warheads threaten a hundred Chernobyls means to stir up passions. Whoever says this counts upon naive people who are far from our sphere. A legitimate question arises: "Who gains from this?"

Morozov Discusses Navy, Nuclear Weapons Maintenance

WS2007085393 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] During a live telephone debate with the readers of MOLOD UKRAYINY, Ukrainian Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov stated: "I am sure that the Ukrainian Navy will be based in Sevastopol." The minister said that the Navy includes four battleships now, and their number will reach ten within the next five years. While answering the question on the fate of the aircraft carrier the Varyag, Kostyantyn Morozov said: "We will complete the construction of the ship either together with Russia or with someone else and sell it either to Russia or to some other state. We do not need this ship in the Ukrainian Navy." The minister also pointed out that there exists an agreement at the level of the Ukrainian and the Russian Defense Ministries according to which Russia will take care of servicing missile systems based on Ukrainian territory. According to the minister, Ukraine has already transferred money for servicing these systems.

Presidential Representative Notes Opposition to Fleet Division

PM1907152993 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 2

[Report by Mariya Starozhitskaya and Aleksandr Khokhlov: "Favorite City. But Whose?"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The ships of the "joint" Black Sea Fleet are flying the naval flags of the USSR.

Fleet Commander Admiral Eduard Baltin never tires of assuring people that the fleet is neutral and calm.

"It's his job to wear two hats," fleet officers say. "And our neutrality has been pushed to the limit."

I. Yermakov, the Ukrainian president's representative in Sevastopol, has told L. Kravchuk that the agreement on dividing up the Black Sea Fleet will not be implemented—the fleet personnel will not accept it.

"Politicians are now playing the Sevastopol card and have 'elevated' this heroic city to a point where we, its inhabitants, can only gasp with amazement," Ivan Fedosovich said. "The politicians need a row over Sevastopol—but the city itself doesn't. Otherwise we would have milk and bread here at acceptable prices and in sufficient quantities. I am talking about Russian and Ukrainian politicians alike." [passage omitted]

"If a referendum were held in the city today," I. Yermakov, the Ukrainian president's representative in Sevastopol, told us, "90 percent of residents would vote against Ukraine." "But a decision reached on the basis of emotion won't do us any good..."

Endorses Free Trade Status for Sevastopol

LD2007110793 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1021
GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Efim Shvartsman]

[Text] Odessa July 20 TASS—To solve the Russian-Ukrainian dispute over Sevastopol, the major base of the Black Sea fleet, it is necessary to urgently grant the city the status of a free trade zone, according to representative of the Ukrainian president in the Crimea Ivan Yermakov.

In an interview to the Ukrainian television on Tuesday he urged to hold a new Russian-Ukrainian summit for the purpose.

Yermakov said that the situation in the city is critical after the Russian Parliament proclaimed it Russian territory.

Visiting U.S. Senator Discusses Aid, Nuclear Weapons

WS1907142693 Kiev *KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian*
14 Jul 93 p 3

[Report by Oleskiy Trotsenko: "Mitchell McConnell: 'Ukraine Needs More Support From U.S.'"]

[Text] U.S. Senator Mitchell McConnell stayed for two days on his official visit in Kiev. He was interested in the aid that Ukraine needs to carry out the transformation of its economy. The Senator, who is a ranking representative of the Republican Party in the Foreign Relations Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, was part of the American delegation that came to Russia on an official visit. While members of that delegation left Moscow for St. Petersburg at the end of the negotiations, he preferred to visit Kiev. Mitchell McConnell met here with Ukrainian President Kravchuk and several Ukrainian legislative and government officials. He also met with Americans who represent a number of influential U.S. organizations in Kiev.

At the press conference at the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, the senator noted that everyone he met concurred in one thing: Ukraine is currently facing two priority tasks—the privatization of state enterprises and the stabilization of the currency system. It is obvious, he said, that you have to cope with many other problems, but in my mind, these two are the most urgent.

Mitchell McConnell told the journalists that he was returning to the United States with a clear understanding of the processes presently under way in Ukraine and what kind of aid our country needs. The senator also noted that he would seek more substantial help for Ukraine.

As I was having meetings in Kiev, Mitchell McConnell said, I heard no one speak in favor of Ukraine retaining the status of a nuclear country. Given the Ukrainian

needs, I understand the position of its government, which seeks relevant compensation for its nuclear weapons subject to destruction. Ukraine has the right to those weapons.

The journalists asked for his opinion about the appeal of President Kravchuk sent to the Group of Seven governments to provide financial assistance to Ukraine. I am familiar with that letter, said the senator, and believe that such assistance is possible if all of the G-7 countries respond to the request.

Germany Finances Program for Retraining Servicemen

AU1907111493 Kiev *URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian* 15 Jul 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Servicemen Change Their Profession"]

[Text] As we learned from the FRG embassy in Ukraine on 7 July 1993, the first meeting of the mixed German-Ukrainian working group took place. The group is authorized to plan and implement the program for training and retraining servicemen of the former Soviet Union's Western Group of Forces who are being withdrawn from Germany to Ukraine. Within the framework of this program, the FRG provides financial assistance amounting to a total sum of 22.98 million German marks. The following measures are being financed from the German funds allocated for this program: Courses for advanced training of teachers, technical provision of the Exemplary Center for Retraining in Kiev, as well as two additional centers in Kryvyi Rih and in Khorol (Poltava Oblast). At the Retraining Center in Kiev, where practical studies will start in summer 1993, 600 servicemen will learn economic and technical professions (for example, specialists in automobile maintenance, radio and television repair services, small businesses, and construction will be trained).

The building and reconstruction of retraining centers and their provision with furniture and equipment will be carried out at Ukraine's expense.

Chinese Delegation Looks To Purchase Steel

AU1907114693 Kiev *HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian*
15 Jul 93 p 3

[Report by M. Yeremenko, Press Service of Ukraine's Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs: "Why Does China Buy Ukrainian Rolled Iron in the United States"]

[Text] Recently, a delegation of the People's Republic of China headed by Yu Sichun, engineer in chief at the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry, visited Ukraine. After a visit to the Dnipropetrovsk Metallurgical Plant Imeni Petrovskyy, the delegation held a news conference in Kiev and a presentation of the mission of its export-import company that be ne incorporated into the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

Answering questions from journalists, Yu Sichun explained that the PRC metallurgical industry consists of four combines and 17 plants and that it advances to new lines gradually, step by step. For example, whereas in 1978 it produced 31.78 million tonnes of steel, the estimate for the last year was 81 million, and by the end of the century, it is planned to produce up to 100 million tonnes.

However, despite the considerable progress, China has to purchase about 10 million tonnes of steel abroad, including in Russia and Ukraine.

What interests our guests? Cast iron, slabs, and other semifinished products, and, of course, the end product—rolled iron. What do they offer us? Mainly refractory materials that we have already been using for two years, as well as the technology, equipment (first and foremost for continuous casting of metal), and so on. Deliveries of coking coal are also possible and, when they secure our agreement, also the joint production of consumer goods.

The correspondents were somewhat surprised by the statements made by Yu Sichun and the president of the expert-import company, Baibao Hua, to the effect that the PRC buys some types of our rolled iron, such as channel bars... in the United States and in Turkey! It therefore appears that the respectable United States and the crafty Turks resell our metal when it comes to big business. This is a graphic proof of the fact that our departments do not know anything about the world market and do not seem to be willing to change anything.

Nationalists Said Involved in Abkhaz Conflict

LD1907174693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1702 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Kiev July 19 TASS—One of the leaders of the Ukrainian semi-legal National Self-Defence Organization (UNSO) confirmed that its members had been to Abkhazia.

According to UNSO leader Dmitriy Korchinskiy, UNSO members did not take part in the armed conflict, but carried out "a peaceful charitable mission".

He said they studied the living conditions of Slavs and Ukrainians in the region. "These people found themselves in the conflict zone against their will and need our help and care", he said.

However it should be remembered that the UNSO constantly organizes "ethnographic expeditions" to regions of ethnic conflicts.

National Affairs

Six-Month Report on Nuclear Plant Performance

MK2007090093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jul 93 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" rubric]

[Text] Kiev—According to the Ukraine State Committee for Atomic Energy, generators at the country's nuclear power stations suffered 27 cutoffs and 53 uncontrolled drops in power during the first six months of the year. The report also says that unforeseen situations developed mainly owing to equipment failures. Only on two occasions did these situations develop through the fault of the operations staff.

Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Station Concerns Residents

LD1907211893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By G. Klimov from Ukraine; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Relations between the Zaporozhye nuclear power station workforce and the population of the neighboring towns have become strained lately. Unexpected incidents at the station are only half the trouble: they are not assessed on the International Atomic Energy Agency scale because of their insignificance. The people of the towns on the shores of the Kakhovka reservoir, however, are worrying in connection with plans to blow-through the station cooling pond. As soon as the blow-through was started it had to be stopped at once. One must admit that the time chosen for carrying out this mandatory technological operation was not the most opportune: it is the holiday season and the season for watering vegetables, and the refuse water containing hard metal salts could have entered the reservoir and the Dnieper. The necessity of a blow-through of the pond cannot be taken off the agenda, however, any more than the maintenance of the power-generating units. The nuclear power station workers are working in difficult conditions: Krasnoyarskiy Kray has refused to accept the waste fuel, the departure of personnel is continuing, and there is not enough money for modernization and maintenance.

All this notwithstanding, the Ukrainian nuclear power station continues to steadily deliver electric power for the needs of the national economy. In the first half of the year five Ukrainian nuclear power stations provided one third of the total electric power produced in the state.

New Black Sea Fleet Patrol Ship Launched

WS2007085793 Kiev KYIVSKA PRAVDA in Ukrainian 15 Jul 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "'Sahaydachnyy' Is in the Vanguard;" article is accompanied by three pictures portraying Vice Admiral Kozhyn making a speech, Priest Filaret christening the ship, and a side-view of the ship]

[Text] The Ukrainian Navy has received a sizable reinforcement. On 12 July, a flag-hoisting ceremony took place on the "Hetman Sahaydachnyy" patrol ship, which was designed specifically for the Ukrainian Black Sea Fleet.

The ceremony was attended by Colonel General Ivan Bizhan, Ukrainian defense deputy minister, Major General Volodymyr Mulyava, head of the social and psychological administration at the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, and Vice Admiral Borys Kozhyn, Ukrainian Navy commander.

The ship was christened by the priest Filaret. The servicemen also hosted senior officials from Lvov and Zaporozhye Oblasts.

The Ukrainian Navy command and the ship's crew thanked the shipbuilders from Kerch for their excellent work. "Hetman Sahaydachnyy" is the third ship to reinforce the Ukrainian Navy.

Cabinet Outlines State of Securities Market

AU1907132893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 16 Jul 93 p 10

[Statement by the Press Service of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers: "Where Does the Capital Flow?"]

[Text] The circulation of securities in Ukraine over the first quarter of 1993 has been analyzed in the Ministry of Statistics' express report.

Over this period of time, the cost of securities that belong to juridical persons has increased by 7.5 billion karbovantsi [K] and amounted to more than K35.6 billion. The overwhelming part of the securities are

shares, among which ordinary securities payable to named persons prevail. Bonds only constitute 17 percent. Treasury bills, savings certificates, and bills of exchange have not yet become common. The shares of enterprises and labor collectives do not yet have free circulation and account for 8 percent in the cost of securities.

During the period when our country's capital market is making its first steps, commercial banks have occupied a leading position in it by controlling 53 percent of its volume, whereas industrial enterprises only control 28 percent and agricultural ones 11 percent. Over 1992 and the first quarter of 1993, foreign investors have invested K132 million in the securities of Ukrainian enterprises; among them, investors from developed countries constitute 30 percent. In terms of regional distribution, more than 93 percent of foreign investment in securities have been made in Transcarpathia, Lvov Oblast, and Kiev.

However, alongside investing, there is an inverse process of the flowing out of the capital. Buying the securities of foreign emissions, Ukrainian economic figures invest in the development of other countries, mainly within the CIS. Over the first quarter of this year, our enterprises have purchased such securities for a sum totalling K147 million and, taking into account past years, K1.9 billion. The flight of capital does not contribute to the development of a state, and it is necessary to urgently create favorable conditions for attracting investments into Ukraine.

Interior Ministry Issues Statistics on Drug Crime

WS2007085993 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1120 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Kiev, 19 July—According to the Ukrainian Ministry press center, in the past week, 344 cases of drug-trafficking were revealed and 263 criminal proceedings were initiated against 396 individuals, who were detained, including 236 arrested for transportation and possession. Twenty drug rings were smashed. Among the detained persons, 246 were unemployed. Over the last year, 9,600 drug-related crimes were revealed; charges were pressed against about 3,700 individuals; 370 drug rings were detected and destroyed; and 8.5 metric tonnes of raw drugs were confiscated.

Belarus**Shushkevich To Discuss Investment, Conversion in U.S.***WS1907143193 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 19 Jul 93*

["Exclusive"] interview with Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich by radio correspondent Svetlana Ilyushenko on 18 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ilyushenko] Stanislav Stanislavovich, you will participate in the U.S. summit. What issues are you going to discuss with President Clinton? Which of them are of paramount importance?

[Shushkevich] You know, the preparatory work has been going on for quite a long time. A program for the visit has already been developed. In fact, the preparation for the visit has been completed. We are going to conclude a number of agreements. I will not comment on them. They will be published. I will comment on the issues, which are very complicated for us at the moment. This is usually very exciting for the journalists. We have learned that we cannot sign an agreement on the most favored nation status of mutual investments. You already know that we have signed a corresponding trade agreement. However, we cannot currently conclude such an agreement on investments. We cannot fully guarantee that after the process of privatization—which differs for the Belarusian citizens and foreigners who want to have private property in Belarus—is completed, the opportunities for foreign purchasers and investors and Belarusian citizens become equal. The last condition has been raised by the U.S. party. By the way, Russia and Ukraine have granted such guarantees to foreign investors. Our delegation cannot resolve this issue because in this case, the decision of the legislature is required. In my mind, all the remaining issues—including the military issues, conversion issues, the implementation of the Lugar-Nunn law, providing the border customs posts with means of control, ensuring the development of our statehood—I am sure that all these issues will be resolved positively. We will have a number of meetings with the most prominent senators if I can put it this way and the representatives of the U.S. state administration.

[Ilyushenko] Stanislav Stanislavovich, what is the most important issue for the Belarusian-American talks?

[Shushkevich] I do not know about the secondary issues, however, we can consider the agreements on the issues of conversion and the military issues as the number one issues. These agreements will affect the life of the servicemen and Belarusian people in general. These agreements will affect, rather, the servicemen who are going to be transferred to the reserve. I would like to repeat that there are a number of political issues, which are more weighty than those that I have mentioned. Anyway, the ordinary people do not care about them, so I do not want to develop this thought. The most important thing is that Belarus, as a sovereign and independent state, is the first

state to have representatives officially invited by the U.S. administration and the U.S. President to visit the United States. In my mind, finally, we are starting to enjoy a corresponding international attitude.

Government Rejects Peace Corps Agreement*PM1907152593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 1*

[Oleg Stepanenko report: "S. Shushkevich's Overseas Trip"]

[Text] Minsk—It has emerged from circles close to Stanislav Shushkevich that, during his forthcoming visit to the United States, he was supposed to sign a treaty on sending "Peace Corps" volunteers to Belarus.

In the early seventies "Peace Corps" representatives were thrown out of India and Bangladesh for interference in internal affairs and links with the special services. The U.S. attempts to resume the Corps' activity there did not meet with the support of the local leadership. The "peacemakers," who have been exposed in many countries, have recently begun to switch to the republics of the former Soviet Union. Mr. Swartz, the U.S. ambassador to Belarus, has shown an enviable activity in his attempts to clear the way for his "volunteers" into this country. Not without his assistance, the republic's Foreign Ministry submitted to the Council of Ministers a draft agreement on the activity of the "Peace Corps" in Belarus. This agreement was supposed to be signed by S. Shushkevich in Washington. However, the government has rejected the attempt to open the door to the U.S. volunteers.

Official Interviewed on Relations With IMF*WS1907095493 Minsk YEVIROPEYSKOE VREMYA in Russian 1 Jul 93 p 3*

[Interview with Yevgeniy Bogomazov, chairman of the Secretariat of the Experts Council for Coordinating Work of Belarusian State Bodies with International Finance and Credit Organizations, by unidentified newspaper correspondent: "Belarus and the International Monetary Fund"; place and date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] Yevgeniy Georgiyevich, you stated once that in April, the Belarusian Government and the IMF will sign a joint memorandum. What have the negotiations with international financial organizations achieved?

[Bogomazov] The program that the government has submitted to the IMF does not meet the requirements of this organization. This primarily concerns the uncertainty with respect to the ruble zone. The IMF demands clarity: Either we remain in this zone or introduce our own currency. Only when we clearly know what currency will circulate on this territory, will the IMF be able to establish its attitude toward our state. If we stay in the

ruble zone, we should completely coordinate our macroeconomic policy and synchronize the stages of reform with Russia. This will demand that we change our legislation. Our government has declared that we are technically and organizationally ready to introduce our national currency but there should be a political decision. Once the integration processes dominate, the government will adopt a corresponding decision. The fact that this issue is so unsettled explains why the IMF is not deliberating the memorandum that was submitted by the Belarusian Government some six months ago and is postponing the earmarking of credit to support the Belarusian balance of payments.

In addition, the allotment of the standby credit is connected with the observation of a number of macroeconomic requirements that are under IMF control. This includes the volume of the budget deficit, the level of inflation, credit indexes, the issuing of banknotes, and the establishment of an exchange rate. All these indexes influence the stability of the financial system.

[Correspondent] Does the IMF establish the same requirements for other countries?

[Bogomazov] The IMF's requirements are absolutely identical for all the countries. You cannot create a market economy without financial stability. Regardless of objective difficulties, the development of the financial system is the only way to create a civilized market. It is the circulatory system of the economy. In the event that this system is sick, the other parts of this large organism will suffer, too. The market development models, which are proposed to us by the IMF, were tested in 1920-1930 in the United States, after the war—in Europe, and later—in the developing countries. The IMF is advocating these axiomatic models because they have been tested in practice. Nevertheless, taking into consideration that the changes are performed on the huge territory of the former USSR, the IMF has lately adopted a decision to create a special Fund for Support of Reforms in the CIS Countries, which has milder requirements. What is the most essential is that you do not need to settle the issue on the currency circulating in the country. Once Belarus receives the first IMF credit, it will be easier to make other loans.

[Correspondent] Do you agree that the current Belarusian Government can implement systemic reforms?

[Bogomazov] Your question seems grounded. It is difficult for people of the old times to get used to new ideas and the implementation of reforms. When I was working within the government structure, I saw clearly that the majority of the government is very conservative, although we are witnessing that positions of the Belarusian Government and the IMF are sluggishly converging. Nevertheless, I am not sure that the current Belarusian Government will completely agree with the IMF recommendations. At the same time, I do not see any alternative solution: We have no political forces that could embark on an electoral campaign and put forward more radical programs. The process of the change of politicians is likely to be very lengthy in Belarus, though I can name the people who can push forward intensive reforms. They are: National Bank Chairman Stanislav Badankevich and First Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich. There are fairly many competent, intelligent, and efficient people among the conservative group of the Republican leadership. In fact, the government is prospering on them: Some are generating the new ideas, some are obstructing their implementation, and the remaining part is adjusting the course of reforms. This is how the general movement forward is organized.

[Correspondent] Can the government develop a radical economic reform? Or is it only capable of ruining the economy?

[Bogomazov] In my opinion, the current government is pursuing the policy of reforms. On the other hand, there are a lot of unsolved issues that can come up at any time. Then, the economy will require a radical decision, a so-called breakthrough. This is not always accompanied by a change in power. Sometimes, it is possible that a government can make this breakthrough.

[Correspondent] When can this happen?

[Bogomazov] We cannot expect this in 1993. As a matter of fact, the decrease in production will continue for the next three years. However, by 1999-2000, we could curb the inflation and our economy could start a new life. At any rate, my assessments differ from those of the IMF: The IMF experts think that the increase in the production will start 2-3 years earlier.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Ready To Send Troops To Help Tajikistan

LD1907173993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1615 GMT 19 Jul 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 19 Jul—In connection with the accords reached by the CIS heads of state and government at the Minsk meeting, Kyrgyzstan is ready to send a special purpose brigade in the next few days to help the people of Tajikistan to settle the tense situation on the border with Afghanistan. Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev informed Imamali Rakhmanov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan, of this in a telephone conversation today.

Russian Delegation Arrives To Discuss Military Issues

LD2007035393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] A delegation from the Russian Defense Ministry has arrived in Kyrgyzstan. It intends to discuss in Bishkek a draft agreement on officers and men serving in the two countries.

Also scheduled are meetings with representatives of military units. The NEGA agency reports that one of the delegation's main tasks is to spend some time with the officers who want to quit Kyrgyzstan's armed forces and return to Russia.

Government Views Economic Performance, Currency

LD2007033093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0130 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Industrial performance and the state of the finance and credit system for the first half-year have been reviewed in Kyrgyzstan. Here's our Bishkek correspondent, Aleksandr Listev.

[Listev] Kyrgyzstan's Prime Minister Tursunbek Chingyshev has conducted a full-strength session of the economics and finance ministry collegia to discuss this matter. Despite the fact that in the two months since the national currency was introduced, inflation has dropped by 25-30 points, the state of the economy is still depressing. On the whole, industrial output fell by a quarter compared to last year. The minimum consumer basket is now at 60 soms, while most people in Kyrgyzstan are on 45-60 soms and cannot of course afford the most basic necessities.

This state of affairs is largely due to half-baked measures following the introduction of the national currency. As a result, a large discrepancy has opened up between the som's nominal and cash rates against the dollar. The

collegia unanimously noted that hard-currency allocations will only hold up the som temporarily, and that only commodities can back it up properly.

Here is Kyrgyzstan's deputy minister for economics and finance, Komanbek Kaziyevich Astashev.

[Begin Astashev recording] Two policy programs have been drawn up. The first is to develop agriculture in 1993 and 1994, and the second is to produce consumer goods. We are now thinking on how to achieve these goals. First of all, of course, we will work together with all the CIS countries to obtain raw materials for consumer goods manufacture. To do this, we will work something out with all the CIS countries, especially Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

Second, and importantly, we have our own resources. These have to be used to increase consumer goods output, and if we do so we should achieve a degree of stabilization. [end recording]

Increase in Drug Trafficking Viewed

AU1907132293 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 15 Jul 93 p 5

[Yevhen Denysenko report from Bishkek: "Fines Have Been Increased, but the Temptation Is Too Great"]

[Text] Local authorities and law-enforcement organs of Kyrgyzstan will, from now on, impose a fine of 2.5 soms (500 rubles) for every plant containing narcotics that is revealed in courtyards or private gardens.

These measures are due to the need to put an end to the swift rise in drug addiction in the republic and, at the same time, to raise funds for combating it, because the state is unable to allocate such funds in necessary amounts. The rise in drug trafficking is now becoming one of the country's most acute problems. Drugs from Kyrgyzstan have already been revealed in 63 countries of the world. In turn, increasingly large amounts of opium are being smuggled here from Afghanistan via neighboring Tajikistan. It sells at 2 million rubles per kilogram on the local black market. There is a great temptation to engage in the dubious business, especially in a situation when one remains without a job and is unable to provide food for the family.

Tajikistan

Russian, Tajik Commanders Comment on Border Attack

PM2007085193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 2

[Report on interviews with Colonel General Vladimir Shlyakhtin, commander of the Russian Federation Border Troops, and Colonel Valeriy Uyanayev, chief of

General Staff and first deputy defense minister of Tajikistan, by Anatoliy Ladin in Dushanbe; date not given: "Comments on the Situation on the Tajik-Afghan Border"]

[Text] Colonel General Vladimir Shlyakhtin, commander of the Russian Federation Border Troops...

Assessing recent events on the Tajik-Afghan border, in particular the treacherous attack by Islamic gunmen and Afghan Mojahedin on the 11th and 12th posts of the Moscow border detachment, the commander said that this was a premeditated attack. By means of a series of armed provocations on the border, the opposition government headed by Abdullo Nuri, which is in Afghanistan, has been aiming to force Russian border guards and the 201st motorized rifle division to leave Tajikistan.

Colonel General Shlyakhtin stressed that the personnel of the 12th post (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA described the attack on the post in detail in its last two editions), who fought for 11 hours against superior enemy forces, protected the Tajik kishlak of Sorigor from bandits by their courageous actions. Furthermore, fighters from the kishlak's local defense force tried to cooperate with the border guards. The border guards heard shooting at the Mojahedin from the Tajik kishlak. In the kishlak, as it turned out, as a result of the Mojahedin's shooting, a fighter from the local defense detachment and a local inhabitant were killed, and two children were wounded. According to the report which the commander received, there were no other casualties in the kishlak. The border guards, the commander stressed, shielded the Tajik village and did everything they could to make sure that no bloody reprisals were carried out against its inhabitants.

The commander reported that, according to precise information, in the morning of 13 July there were 48 people at the 12th post. These included two officers, two servicemen performing extended service, three servicemen from a motorized rifle division infantry fighting vehicle crew, and the brother of the chief of the post, 19-year-old Ivan Mayboroda, who had not yet been drafted. All the others were rank and file border guards. In the fight with the dushmans, 22 border guards died, and 23 people broke out of the encirclement (11 of them were wounded, one soldier seriously). Colonel General Shlyakhtin spoke with gratitude of the actions of the infantry fighting vehicle crew. All three soldiers died a valiant death.

Colonel General Shlyakhtin also stated that following a study of all the circumstances connected with the attack on the post, it becomes obvious that the armed groupings of the Tajik opposition on the territory of Afghanistan are continuing to obtain weapons and military equipment from various countries. Assault rifles and other models of Chinese- and Czech-made firearms were found at the scene of the battle in the area of the 12th post. The uniform worn by a mojahedin who was killed was made in Pakistan.

Answering questions from your KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent concerning the strengthening of the border, Colonel General Shlyakhtin noted that by and large the group of Russian Federation border troops in Tajikistan has in its arsenal types of weapons and equipment intended for the protection of the border. But the situation demands that the posts be provided with manpower and resources which can counter the numerous well-equipped enemy groups. Gangs which penetrate from Afghanistan are increasingly frequently mining the roads to the rear of the post. And the border guards do not have sufficient resources to quickly clear the mines. They need help in this.

The hope was also expressed that in accordance with the agreements reached between the heads of CIS states in Minsk and Moscow, the border guards will finally receive reinforcements. So far only Kazakhstan has sent a battalion to the Tajik-Afghan border.

Colonel Valeriy Uyanayev, chief of the Main Staff and first deputy defense minister of Tajikistan:

The chief of the Main Staff assessed the attack on the 11th and 12th posts as an attempt by the "leadership of a major grouping (up to 1,000 gunmen) on the Afghan side to probe the solidity of the border cordons." Colonel Uyanayev also expressed the idea that the opposition's actions may possibly only be a diversionary maneuver. So that the main forces of the Tajik army, and the republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs and National Security Committee, as well as the 201st Russian motorized rifle division, would be drawn here, to the tormented posts, while the main attack and breakthrough of the border could occur somewhere else. You have to be prepared for everything.

The chief of the Main Staff reported that starting from the beginning of July, the air space of Tajikistan has been violated almost every day by helicopters bearing Afghan markings. They are going deep into the republic's territory. No doubt weapons, ammunition and medicines are being supplied to the opposition's bandit formations this way.

The Armed Forces of Tajikistan are continuing to form, consolidate, and gain experience of conducting military operations. But the republic Ministry of Defense acutely needs support from Russian and other CIS countries' military departments. In the first place the troops must be provided with various means of radio communication, air defense, and spare parts for combat equipment.

Border Situation 'Remains Alarming'

PM1907153593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
20 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[Nikolay Burbyga report: "Defense Ministry Refutes Information on Shelling of Afghan Territory"]

[Text] AFP cites a Kabul Radio report that 300 Afghans had died as a result of a strike by Russian troops against Takhar Province from Tajik territory. Hundreds of

houses were destroyed and 6,000 people made homeless. The Afghan Foreign Ministry has issued a statement condemning those actions and calling them at variance with the UN Charter.

Prior to this Radio Kabul had reported a similar artillery strike against Afghan villages near the border. It was reported at the time that 80 people had been killed and injured.

The Defense Ministry Press Service has refuted these reports.

The newspaper has learned that the Russian Armed Forces General Staff has already begun implementing a package of measures worked out during the trip to Tajikistan by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. Their essence boils down to reinforcing the Tajik-Afghan border with men, equipment, and weapons in the very near future, while the border guards will receive more modern arms and special facilities, and the 201st Motorized Rifle Division will be brought up to strength.

Pavel Grachev reported in conversation with IZVESTIYA's correspondent that those who have "encroached upon the Russian soldier" must be punished. To this end various services are working to expose the persons involved in what happened, and the details of the attack on the 12th Border Guard Detail are being ascertained.

The situation on the border remains alarming, particularly in the region of the 11th and 12th Border Guard Details of the Moskovskiy Border Detachment. On 18 July a grouping of Tajik gunmen made an attempt at an armed breach of the Tajik-Afghan border in the region of one of the Pyandzh posts, which was repulsed by Russian border guards.

An armed grouping that recently infiltrated the border village of Vari from Afghanistan was blocked by government troops and Russian border guards.

Government, Parliament Warn Kabul of 'Regional Conflict'

LD1907155293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 19 Jul 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] In a joint statement to Kabul made by the parliament and government of Tajikistan, the raids from Afghan territory have been called acts of aggression against a sovereign, independent state. Dushanbe warns of the possibility of a new regional conflict arising.

Republic Informs UN of Right To Retaliate

LD1907174093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1705 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations July 19 TASS—The former Soviet Republic of Tajikistan has notified the United Nations Security Council about its legitimate right to take retaliatory measures against Afghan bands who had attacked Russian border guards on the republic's borders with Afghanistan. The notification was part of a statement by the presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan which was circulated as a Security Council document in the U.N. Headquarters today.

"Restoration of peace on the much suffering Tajik soil is not to the liking of armed terrorist anti-government groups entrenched on the territory of the Islamic state of Afghanistan," the statement said.

"On July 13, a large group of hit-men made of troops belonging to the anti-government forces and supported by Afghan mojahedin and units of the Defence Ministry of the Islamic state of Afghanistan attacked the border village of Sarigor in Shurabad district. As a result, people were killed or injured including among civilians", the statement related.

The statement expressed "gratitude to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian parliament for their support of the Tajik people at a difficult time".

Opposition Leader Sees 'Rebirth of Russian Imperialism'

LD1907155393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 19 Jul 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Shodmon Yusuf, the leader of the opposition Democratic Party of Tajikistan, who is in Afghanistan, says that Russia's intention to strengthen its military presence in the republic signifies the rebirth of Russian imperialism throughout Central Asia.

Russian Minister Hopes for Political Solution

LD1907182893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1738 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 19 Jul—"There can be no question whatsoever of any global escalation of Russia's presence on the territory of Tajikistan," Russian Federation Security Minister Viktor Barannikov, who arrived in Dushanbe today, told journalists. In this connection, he warned some of the mass media against making dubious interpretations of the measures being taken at the instruction of Russian President Boris Yeltsin in connection with recent events on the Tajik-Afghan border. He explained that they are being taken, above all, to strengthen the border's defense and to protect the dignity and life of the Russian-speaking population in Tajikistan. The minister stressed that in strengthening the

border, Russia is taking no large-scale actions whatsoever against the Republic of Afghanistan, and expressed the hope that the problem could be solved politically.

On Tuesday [20 July] morning Viktor Barannikov is flying to the border to see the operational situation there for himself.

Activities of Kazakhstani Battalion Detailed

LD1907210893 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] The anti-government groups that have taken refuge on the territory of Badakhshan, Tajikistan, have recently been spreading all sorts of rumors alleging the illegal dispatch of a Kazakhstan Defense Ministry battalion to here [Badakhshan].

However, as an investigation carried out by a government commission of Tajikistan shows, the personnel of the [Kazakhstani] battalion have been sent to Badakhshan in accordance with an intergovernmental agreement [between Tajikistan and Kazakhstan], and that they are carrying out their assigned duties accordingly. The Kazakhstani military servicemen are not allowing armed militants to cross into Tajikistan from the territory of the neighboring country [Afghanistan] and bring with them arms, ammunition, and narcotics.

The Kazakhstan Defense Ministry battalion, irrespective of the provocations and baseless rumors by the opposition militants, will continue implementing their duties.

PRAVDA Calls For Improved Defense of Border

PM2007092193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jul 93 p 2

[Igor Lenskiy article: "Blazing Border—Line of Common Destiny"]

[Text] Over the last few days a number of mass media have questioned the exploits performed by Russian border guards in Tajikistan as they defended the southern borders of the CIS at the cost of their own lives. Objections are advanced in two interconnected spheres: First, what is happening on the border is supposedly the result of the political struggle within Tajikistan itself, second, this is the prelude to another protracted bloody conflict with Afghanistan.

An alternative is also being proposed. Writing in IZVESTIYA (17 July), A. Plutnik advises the people's authorities in Tajikistan to find a "common peaceful language with even the most hardline opposition" as the only reasonable solution. (Would my colleague have made that suggestion had, say, the National Salvation Front in Moscow taken up assault rifles?)

But let us put the question differently. Where is the political opposition in Tajikistan? Is Rezvon, the bandit and drug addict hiding out with his detachment in the mountains of the Pamir region, the opposition? Are the

fighters lurking in ambush and hiding on the border the opposition? Not a single international expert in Tajikistan has yet ranked the brigands as politicians.

There were certainly Islamic politicians. We recently knew them by sight. Supreme Judge [Kazikolon] Turadzhozoda, Vice Premier Dovat Usmon, Democratic Party [DP] Chairman Shodmon Yusuf, Islamic Revival Party [IRP] leader Khimmatzoda, and IRP activists and members. For two years they had the kind of freedom you can only dream of. Some 60,000 innocent people died, sacrificed to pseudo-Islam. It is now time to answer for this. In law. Not for political convictions (people are not tried for that in Tajikistan), but for organizing mass murders. Well then? You won't find anyone, they have all fled! Turadzhozoda is in Afghanistan and Shodmon Yusuf is in the Moscow region. When the case of terminating the activity of the IRP and the DP was heard in court, not a single ordinary member of the parties—never mind the leaders—was to be found! And you talk of an opposition...

Claims that all Afghanistan is behind the provocateurs on the Tajik-Afghan border are an exaggeration. The central government in Kabul has never taken responsibility for the incidents. What is more, during talks with I. Rakhmanov and I. Karimov, President B. Rabbani has always stressed his love of peace. The fact that the northern provinces are virtually ungovernable from Kabul is another matter. There are no incursions, for instance, from territories under the jurisdiction of General Dostam (an Uzbek by birth). Aggressive mojahedin groupings are massed in Takhar Province, which comes under the influence of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan. The party's leader G. Hekmatyar recently took up the post of Afghan prime minister and these forces noticeably stepped up their activity.

Once they have infiltrated the border, the intruders are incapable of holding the area they capture for very long and usually pull back at great loss to themselves. Thus, the military-strategic significance of the operation is zero. That however is not the aim. By killing border guards and dealing with the wounded and prisoners with brutal ferocity the mojahedin (particularly those that direct them) are counting on causing Russian public thinking to crack up (a "second Afghanistan") and inspiring defeatist political conclusions. That is, they are counting on the troops leaving. Is there any need to add that, without a trained regular army, Tajikistan will simply disappear off the map afterwards? There is no point in a dushman who dreams of cutting off a Soviet soldier's head reading sermons. Clearing the way for the mojahedin means predetermining the fate of the Slavs.

No one foisted its incumbent leaders on Tajikistan. They were elected by the people and via their legal representatives on soviets at all levels. There is no legal, politically functioning opposition in the republic today. There is external aggression. Consequently, Russia must carry out its treaty-based pledges to defend Tajikistan's territorial integrity as well as our compatriots living there.

One must also remember that Tajikistan remained until the very last a staunch supporter of the USSR, and the breakup of the state was not its choice. Tajikistan's fate (like that of the whole Soviet Union) was decided without its participation far from the Pamir. It would hardly be ethical today to leave Tajikistan alone with a perfidious enemy, facing a war that it never wanted, for which it never prepared, and the threat of which is the result of Soviet-Afghan rather than Tajik-Afghan relations. Since Russia declared itself the rightful successor to the Union it must undoubtedly concern itself with the most vulnerable part of the Union that it destroyed. Uzbekistan has settled this issue for itself unequivocally.

You would have thought that Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan should have acted similarly. Especially since their presidents signed a quadripartite agreement on strengthening the border 22 January. When asked in April, [Kazakhstani President] N. Nazarbayev said that his country will send border guards. But regrettably... What is the reason for this? Are they in no hurry to risk the lives of their own compatriots? I think that it is all far simpler than that. There are around 1 million Uzbeks in Tajikistan and 300,000 Russian speakers, while the Kazakh and Kyrgyz communities are extremely small...

The real cause of the tragedy on the Pyandzha is not the political struggle in Tajikistan, but the lack of concern of the Russian top brass, who are forcing our soldiers to make up for the lack of hardware with their own bodies. Who uses assault rifles to combat rockets?! The dushmans would not be interfering had there been a tank or an infantry fighting vehicle at every outpost and helicopters patrolling the skies. Following the breakup of the USSR the length of the borders to be guarded dropped by a factor of 1.5, so there is more than enough spare equipment in Russia. It may have been belated, but it was no accident that [Russian Defense Minister] Pavel Grachev mentioned long-range bomber aviation. Insight has come at the price of young lives. In the face of aggression, the right to self-defense presupposes the right to a preemptive attack. A crushing, sobering attack.

Republic Reselling Russian Oil, Copper Abroad

PM1907135593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 6

[Report by Vladimir Berezovskiy: "Oil From the Peaks of the Pamirs"]

[Text] A truly sensational fact: Tajikistan is selling... oil to Switzerland. And that despite the fact that the republic produces only 60,000 tonnes of black gold per year, which at best would see it through just a week. Nonetheless, the rich Alpine republic has extracted 200,000 tonnes of crude oil from the Pamirs. From the small "Viktoriya" Enterprise. The "Sogdiana" Joint Venture has shipped another 211,000 tonnes to "needy" Italy. The "Zamir," "Timur-zade," "Tofir," and "Panorama" Firms have been flogging gasoline and diesel fuel to Europe on a smaller scale, but only for hard currency.

Russian producers would never guess that they have such successful middlemen in the mountain republic, making a fair bit of money exporting their raw material. But perhaps Moscow and Dushanbe do not know about it? Hard to believe. This means only one thing: Tajikistan is still receiving sustenance from the "odious imperial center." Although secretly now.

Moreover, Tajikistan has suddenly become a supplier of copper, although not a single kilogram of this nonferrous metal is extracted on its territory. Local dealers have sold "poor" Switzerland hundreds of tonnes of scrap, refined copper, wire, and sheet metal.

What does Tajikistan import? Commercial organizations go for various textiles. Demand for them is very stable. The republic has also consumed 20 tonnes of chewing gum. Some 404 decaliters of perfume, three tonnes of lipstick, and nearly one tonne of creams and deodorants have been bought for local beauties. As for industrial equipment, dealers have imported a grand total of 20 immersion heaters.

Total exports for the year exceeded 1.28 billion rubles [R], while imports amounted to R315 million. A ratio of 4:1. In short, everything must go!

Armenia

Yerevan Updates Situation in Nagorno-Karabakh

NC1907200693 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330
GMT 19 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

We have already reported that the clashes and exchanges of fire in the NKR border dramatically decreased and the situation has tended to stabilize during the past few days. However, tension prevails. Azerbaijan has been unwilling to remove existing tension. Consequently, it has embarked on provocative activities from time to time. It has opened fire with various types of arms and launched several attacks. Men have been killed or wounded and military vehicles have been destroyed on the two sides as a result of each and every clash and exchange of fire. Furthermore, residential areas and vital installations have been razed and the number of refugees has increased. Obviously, a crime is a crime.

Although Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference Mario Raffaelli has visited the region, the confrontation has not yet been brought under control. Nevertheless, [words indistinct]. We hope that the war will end and that it will not be in the distant future. [passage omitted]

The instability in Azerbaijan has influenced the situation in the border areas. In other words, certain forces in Azerbaijan significantly exploit the Karabakh problem for political purposes. Consequently, they do not wish to allow peace and stability to be established in the region.

Azerbaijan's military units in Agdamskiy Rayon fired heavily on the residential areas and Armenian defense positions in Askeranskiy Rayon's border regions early on 16 July. They then tried to launch an attack. Similar attacks had taken place several times in the past. However, the Azerbaijani units failed to achieve their objective and were forced to retreat after losing many men and combat vehicles. Nor was the outcome of their latest attack different. The units of the Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] defense forces obstructed the attack and counterattacked to force the Azerbaijani units to retreat to their positions. The first reports said that Azerbaijan's military units lost nine men and 40 tanks in the fighting. We do not have any accurate information on the Armenian side's casualties. Undoubtedly, we have also suffered casualties. However, as a rule, the attacking side's losses are several times more than the defending units'.

Quoting the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry, that republic's mass media have said that the NKR Armed Forces shelled the residential areas in Fizulinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy Rayons and Agdam City on the same day. However, they failed to mention that the Armenian side only returned the fire from the Azerbaijani units.

No significant incident occurred on the Karabakh battlefronts on 17 and 18 July. Nevertheless, according to a report we received a short time ago, the Azerbaijani units in Agdamskiy Rayon shelled the border areas in Askeranskiy Rayon this morning. The NKR military units were forced to return fire. We have not received any information on the outcome of the clashes.

The humanitarian corridor in Lachinskiy Rayon was fired on from Kubatliinskiy Rayon last night. The situation in the vicinity of the corridor is peaceful at the present time. The NKR military units are effectively controlling the corridor.

Meanwhile, the situation in the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan has been relatively peaceful. However, exchanges of fire have taken place in that region from time to time. An exchange of fire took place close to Yeraskhavan today. The positions in Nerkin-Chambarak in Krasnoselskiy Rayon were fired on from Kedabekskiy Rayon the night before last night. No one was hurt on the Armenian side.

Aggressive activities must be halted. Irresponsible activities [words indistinct] obstruct the removal of tension between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Furthermore, innocent people are killed or wounded in the fighting.

No Shelling Reported for Three Days

NC1907123393 Yerevan SNARK in English 1011 GMT
19 Jul 93

[Text] Stepanakert, July 19 (SNARK)—There was no shelling in Karabakh for the last three days, informs Karabakh department of press and information. But according to the headquarters of Karabakh Army, the Azerbaijani side is concentrating military forces in the territory of occupied north Mardakertskiy region. Relating the Karabakh side, Karabakh army is completely controlling the situation on its present positions.

Askeranskiy Rayon, Lachin Corridor Shelled

NC1907162193 Yerevan ARMENPRES International
Service in Armenian 1133 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] The border region in Askeranskiy Rayon in Nagorno-Karabakh was shelled this morning from the military bases in Agdamskiy Rayon. The Karabakh self-defense army's fighters were forced to retaliate. No casualty figures have been reported so far.

The enemy has been shelling the Lachin humanitarian corridor since last night from Kubatliinskiy Rayon by using various types of weapons. The shelling stopped only in the morning. The traffic along the road is continuing unimpeded.

Azerbaijani Attack Repulsed

NC1907181093 Yerevan ARMENPRES International
Service in Armenian 1448 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Tension persists on the borders of Armenia's Araratskiy and Krasnoselskiy Rayons since last night. Yeraskhavan in Araratskiy Rayon and Verin-Chambarak in Krasnoselskiy Rayon came under artillery and tank fire from Nakhichevan and Kedabekski Rayon.

Last Saturday the Azerbaijani armed formations infiltrated Gorisskiy Rayon. The defensive positions near Teg and Kornizdor came under grad, howitzer and tank fire. The enemy infantry then launched an attack towards Kornizdor. The enemy attack was repulsed.

Karabakh Official Doubts Feasibility of CSCE Measures

NC1907122193 Yerevan SNARK in English 1011 GMT
19 Jul 93

[Text] Stepanakert, July 19 (SNARK)—Karabakh leadership remains anxious relating instability of the present political situation within Azerbaijan that led to the recent events in Baku. Karabakh Parliamentary Press Secretary Gegam Bagdasaryan said to SNARK that the development of events in Azerbaijan makes Karabakh leadership doubt that the official Baku is able to strictly follow the proposed CSCE "schedule on urgent measures" on conflict settlement in the region. The press secretary added that Azerbaijani leadership hasn't yet responded to multiple Stepanakert's proposals on establishing of direct contacts between the two republics which in Bagdasaryan's opinion does not help to improve mutual credibility. "This and other matters have become the subject of serious discussions at Karabakh Parliament caused by a message of Mario Raffaelli, chairman of the CSCE Minsk group that proposes to the conflicting sides to affirm by July 20 their agreement to realize peace-bringing mission", said Gegam Bagdasaryan.

Foreign Minister Holds Talks With Christopher

PM1907132593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in
Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 6

[Unattributed "News Service" report]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has had talks in Washington with Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan. At the meeting they discussed the state of relations between the two countries and the prospects for a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh armed conflict. It was W. Christopher's first meeting with the head of the Armenian foreign policy department. W. Christopher said that the United States intends to cooperate with Armenia in solving its food and other problems, particularly at the beginning of the winter.

Envoy Signs Document on Intelsat Membership

NC1907204993 Yerevan ARMENPRES International
Service in Armenian 1448 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] The Armenian ambassador to the United States Ruben Shugaryan signed a document on Armenia's membership in the "Intelsat" international organization in Washington.

Armenia is the third newly independent state after Russia and Azerbaijan that has become a member of this organization serving the development of information exchange.

Azerbaijan**Russian Special Envoy Cited on Karabakh Diplomacy**

LD1907174393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in
Russian 1445 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Dispatch by correspondent Islam Kuliyeu from Baku; from the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Russian special envoy Vladimir Kazimirov is expected to arrive in Baku this evening. According to information from the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan, during his visit he will meet Geydar Aliyev, the republic's acting president and chairman of the Supreme Soviet, to discuss matters relating to stepping up the implementation of a series of urgent measures toward a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

Tomorrow the Russian diplomat is due to depart for Moscow, from where he will fly on to Rome the following day to take part in a consultative meeting of the CSCE Minsk Conference.

People in Azerbaijan are looking forward to this visit because literally a few hours after Mario Raffaelli, chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference, left the combat zone, reports began coming in about the resumption of fierce shelling of populated localities of Azerbaijan by the Armenian side. According to other reports, the precise duration of the stay in Baku by Vladimir Kazimirov, special envoy of the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry so far remains unknown.

Kazimirov himself, in a telephone conversation with a correspondent with one of the news agencies in Baku, said that the aim of his visit to the Azerbaijan capital virtually coincides with the tasks tackled by Mario Raffaelli, chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference, during his stay in Azerbaijan.

On the subject of when CSCE observers will be sent into the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict zone, Kazimirov said that the organization itself was sufficiently prepared for this, but that specialists will be dispatched to Nagorno-Karabakh only if a reliably effective cease-fire is secured. He stressed that this is an absolute condition.

The special envoy also noted that Russia continues to favor full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 822 by the warring sides. He also voiced the hope that the time scale for the implementation of the plan by the nine (countries) becomes known in the very near future, and emphasized that all the experience and authority of the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia should be used for its implementation.

Commenting on the statement by the U.S. State Department of 17 July that noted the latter's concern over the Azerbaijani parliament's decision on the arrest of several officials of the republic's former government, Vladimir Kazimirov said that Russia occupies a firm position of non-interference in the affairs of other states, and that the Azerbaijani people can resolve their own domestic problems themselves. In his words, the change of governments and sociopolitical situation within the republic should have no effect whatsoever on the work of the CSCE, whose main aim is to shift the warring sides from the battlefield to the negotiation table. With that, I conclude my report on the latest events occurring or about to occur in the republic.

Aliyev, Envoy Discuss Karabakh

LD2007140293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1319
GMT 20 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku July 20 TASS—Russian Ambassador at large Vladimir Kazimirov, who heads the Russian mission to talks on the peaceful settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh, met Azerbaijan's acting President Geydar Aliyev here today to discuss prospects for cooperation between Russia and Azerbaijan in dealing with the complex problem of Karabakh settlement.

The parties stressed that this is no time for mutual accusations and exchange of general views and called for practical steps by all parties concerned.

According to Kazimirov, this is necessary also because the conflict around Nagorno-Karabakh "has exported destabilisation to other regions" and it is most important to put an end to such processes everywhere.

Geydar Aliyev said "only the good will of two nations can put an end to bloodshed of which the region has seen more than enough throughout the years of the conflict".

He noted that the leadership of Azerbaijan showed sufficient flexibility and constructiveness to help the peace-making mission of the Conference for Cooperation and Security in Europe to accomplish its task successfully. He expressed the hope that the CSCE mission would produce practical results and make it possible to transfer from "drawn-out diplomatic bargaining to specific actions".

The Russian ambassador said a meeting of nine CSCE member countries would meet in Rome on Wednesday [21 July] to discuss aspects of the settlement of the Karabakh crisis.

National Assembly Decision on Kamberov Removal

NC1907194793 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1900 GMT 19 Jul 93

["Text" of Azerbaijan National Assembly decision on removal of Deputy Isa Kamberov as a National Assembly member]

[Text] Considering the prosecutor general's recommendation and acting in accordance with Articles 34 and 38 of the law on the status of deputies, the Azerbaijan National Assembly has decided the following:

Deputy Isa Kamberov's status as member of the National Assembly is revoked and the initiation of criminal charges against him is approved.

[Signed] Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet

[Dated] Baku City, 16 July 1993

Decision on Shirinov Removal

NC1907201393 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1900 GMT 19 Jul 93

["Text" of Azerbaijan National Assembly decision on removal of Deputy Ihtiyar Shirinov as a National Assembly member]

[Text] Considering the prosecutor general's recommendation and acting in accordance with Articles 34 and 38 of the law on the status of deputies, the Azerbaijan National Assembly has decided the following:

Deputy Ihtiyar Shirinov's status as member of the National Assembly is revoked and the initiation of criminal charges against him is approved.

[Signed] Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet

[Dated] Baku City, 16 July 1993

Decision on Askerov Removal

NC1907201793 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1900 GMT 19 Jul 93

["Text" of Azerbaijan National Assembly decision on removal of Deputy Bayram Askerov as a National Assembly member]

[Text] Considering the prosecutor general's recommendation and acting in accordance with Articles 34 and 38 of the law on the status of deputies, the Azerbaijan National Assembly has decided the following:

Deputy [name indistinct] Bayram Askerov's status as member of the National Assembly is revoked and the initiation of criminal charges against him is approved.

[Signed] Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet

[Dated] Baku City, 16 July 1993

Aliyev Reportedly 'Unaware' of Events at Rally

NC1907145093 Baku TURAN in English 1156 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, July 19 (TURAN)—The leader of Independent Democratic Party of Azerbaijan Leyla Yunusova in her interview with TURAN's correspondent stated, that Saturday evening [17 July] after brute dispersing of meeting to the support of President A. Elchibey, the ambassadors of the USA, Turkey and France had met with the Chairman of the Parliament Geydar Aliyev and had drawn his attention to the reaction of the governments of their states on [word indistinct] of Milli Mejlis and situation in Azerbaijan.

To L. Yunusova words, in the results of these meetings negotiations between G. Aliyev said, that he was unaware of the events at PFA [Azerbaijani People's Front] headquarter. G. Aliyev supposed, that the decision to [word indistinct]. The rally could be proceeded from Premier Surat [Guseynov].

PFA deputies have met with Minister of Internal Affairs Vagif Yusuf ogy Novruzov the same night.

In the result of these meetings the agreement had been achieved, that legal body of the republic should surrender PFA residence to the chairman of Ali Mejlis [the Assembly of the Azerbaijani People's Front] Gulamgusein Aliyev. G. Aliyev also declared, that the measures would be taken regarded for the head of police of Sabail region, where the building of PFA residence is situated.

Aliyev Accuses People's Front of Bid To Seize Power

LD1907154793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 19 Jul 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, the Azerbaijani leader, has spoken of attempts to assassinate him, and accused the People's Front of Azerbaijan of preparing to seize power. You will recall that while the Ganja events were being discussed in the Azerbaijani parliament, many of those who had given evidence refused to make public statements, citing the continuing threat from devotees of the republic's former leadership headed by Abulfaz Elchibey.

Elchibey's Press Service Views 'Totalitarian Regime'

NC1907135793 Baku TURAN in English 1156 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, July 19 (TURAN)—Press-service of Azerbaijani president made a statement, which runs, that serious changes had come over in political life of the republic lately. Internal crisis became more aggravated and serious complications in development of democratic reforms appeared in the result of anti-constitutional resolutions of the chairman of Milli Mejlis and Supreme Soviet. President A. Elchibey's right to express his opinion on the developments in the republic is limited artificially and his statements are not broadcasted.

The statement points, forces, that have come to power in Baku are using new methods to isolate president from the world. Journalists, leaving July 16 for Keleki for A. Elchibey's press-conference, were stopped at Bina Airport and were returned.

The statement also stresses, that cases of breaking democracy, human rights and freedom of word in Azerbaijan are acquiring more mass character. The fire is opened at the participants of the meeting, invited at Milli Mejlis sitting are arrested in the building of Supreme Soviet, people are persecuted on political motives, press is subjected to pressure.

Press-service of the president points, these characteristic of totalitarian regime methods can lead Azerbaijan to new tragedies. In order to avoid it, all democratic forces ought to unite efforts to ensure human rights, freedom of word and democratic principles.

U.S. Statement Gives 'Invaluable Help' to Democracy

NC1907135893 Baku TURAN in English 1156 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, July 19 (TURAN)—The leader of Independent Democratic Party Leyla Yunusova in her talk with TURAN's correspondent said, that Inter-Party Commission, defending legality and civil rights was created in Azerbaijan. This commission includes Musavat Party, Independent Democratic Party and Democratic Party of Azerbaijan.

Inter-Party Commission, defending legality and civil rights accepted today the statement with an appeal to all political parties and public-political organizations, standing against using force methods, to unite their efforts in this commission in order to defend human rights and legitimacy in Azerbaijan.

On Sunday, "Ana Torpag" [Motherland] Party and People's Front of Azerbaijan declared about their joining to Inter-Party Commission.

L. Yunusova also stated, that Musavat Party and Independent Democratic Party accepted an appeal to U.S.

Government. In the statement of U.S. Department of State the resolution of Milli Mejlis from July 16 and starting of arrests of former officials of the republic are regarded as one more verification of U.S. adherence to humanism principles, defense of legality and human rights in every state of world community. The statement of U.S. Department of State is invaluable help and support for democracy in Azerbaijan.

Guseynov Sends Congratulatory Message to Iraq

*NC1907181593 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1700 GMT 19 Jul 93*

[Text] Prime Minister Surat Guseynov has conveyed a congratulatory message to Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi of Iraq. Guseynov's message said:

Your Excellency, I congratulate you and the Iraqi people on behalf of Azerbaijan on the occasion of [words indistinct]. I hope that the scope of the relations between Azerbaijan and Iraq and their peoples will broaden and improve every day. I pray for your Excellency's health and happiness and for peace, security, and peaceful development for your country's people. Mr. Prime Minister, I urge you to accept my respects and best wishes for the Iraqi people.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Greece

*OW1807131193 Baku Azerbaijan Radio Televiziyasi
Television Network in Russian 1511 GMT 16 Jul 93*

[From the "Telefaks" newscast]

[Text] Azerbaijan and Greece have established diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, the AZERTAC correspondent was informed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Albert Salamov, the deputy foreign minister received Mr. (Panayotis Karatsasis), the Greek ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, who has been appointed to Azerbaijan.

Salamov congratulated the ambassador on his appointment and wished him success in his work of developing good Azerbaijani-Greek relations. Both sides assessed highly the significance of establishing ambassadorial-level diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Greece. The prospects of developing bilateral relations in various spheres were also discussed during the meeting.

Opposition Newspapers Not Published 20 Jul

*NC2007132693 Baku TURAN in English 0949 GMT
20 Jul 93*

[Text] Baku, July 20 (TURAN)—Today the readers couldn't buy the latest issues of the biggest opposition newspapers "AZADLYG" and "MUKHALIFAT" at the news-stalls of the city. The issues of these papers were not passed by the censor because of the published in them the statements of the U.S. State Department,

Turkish MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] and Helsinki Watch (human rights defensive organization of the USA).

The censors suggested that editors withdrew the statements from the issues, but the journalists refused to do this.

To the reports of the employees of the papers mentioned above, the censorship keep making cuts or entirely withdrew the materials containing the criticism concerning the policy of the present authorities.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Abkhaz Conflict

*PM2007140893 Paris LE FIGARO in French 20 Jul 93
p4*

[Interview with head of state Eduard Shevardnadze by Gerard Nicaud in Tbilisi; date not given]

[Text] [Nicaud] Mr. President, you have met with Boris Pastukhov, Boris Yeltsin's envoy. Following this meeting, what hopes are there for peace, or at least for a cease-fire in Abkhazia?

[Shevardnadze] It is too soon to talk of results. But we have a plan which could lead to a cease-fire or a general agreement. Unfortunately, I do not know what the other side's reaction will be (that of the Abkhaz separatists who are asking either for independence or attachment to Russia—LE FIGARO editor's note). However, I think that this meeting is a great step forward. Provided we achieve everything which was mentioned in the agreements. Last September (during the first cease-fire—LE FIGARO editor's note) we had already reached an agreement but it was never implemented.

[Nicaud] The recent offensive in early July by the Abkhaz separatist forces on Sukhumi (the Abkhaz capital still held by the Georgians—LE FIGARO editor's note) proves, by the scale of the operation and the equipment used—planes, landing craft—the presence of the Russians. In your view, who gave the Russian soldiers the order to intervene?

[Shevardnadze] I think that Boris Yeltsin and his entourage tend to be in favor of a settlement of the conflict. But there are forces in Russia which are supporting the separatists and which supply equipment, money, logistics, and experts in this kind of operation.

[Nicaud] What are these forces?

[Shevardnadze] The military, some political, financial, and business circles; probably also the Russian Supreme Soviet, at least a large part of the deputies.

[Nicaud] What do you think is their target? Georgia or you personally? After all, you are the man who brought

down the red flag in Kabul, Berlin, and Prague. Many of those who hanker after the old regime would have grievances against you....

[Shevardnadze] There are people in Russia for whom Eduard Shevardnadze is a thorn in the flesh. But the truth is not on their side, they will not triumph. The real Russians are aware of the situation, they cannot side with the separatists, because the phenomenon of separatism is also worrying for Russia.

[Nicaud] It is not just the Russians who are siding with the Abkhaz. There are members of the confederation of North Caucasus countries and, apparently, Turks of Abkhaz origin.

[Shevardnadze] I do not have any facts on the Abkhaz who have come from Turkey. As regards the confederation, it is a fairly fundamentalist organization (Islamic—LE FIGARO editor's note). This organization has stated that the goal of its struggle was to make Sukhumi its capital. But that city is Georgian.

[Nicaud] The war in Abkhazia is overshadowing another conflict, that in South Ossetia. Of course, the cease-fire is being respected, but the situation is still precarious. Are there negotiations under way on that side?

[Shevardnadze] The conflict is calming down. If the hostilities in Abkhazia were not hampering us, we could make progress in settling the Ossetian question. Of course, we are still a long way from it, but as soon as the conflict in Abkhazia is settled, we will start work.

[Nicaud] Georgian peace and security is not just threatened from outside. Inside the country there are militias like the Zviadists, supporters of former President Gamsakhurdia, the "knights" of Dzhaba Ioseliani, and the militia of former Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani. Are they not a real threat for the young Georgian democracy?

[Shevardnadze] The most real danger lies in the financial, economic, and social sphere. Social tension in the country is very acute. Aside from that, I do not think that there are forces strong and important enough to oppose the government, because the government enjoys the support of the majority of the population.

[Nicaud] What do you plan to do to steer the country out of the economic and social crisis?

[Shevardnadze] 1. We must rely on local natural resources. 2. Take a decisive step toward the market economy. 3. We must restore economic relations with Russia and all the republics of the former USSR as quickly as possible. 4. We must develop new relations with the neighboring countries (Iran, Turkey...), and with the big Western countries (Europe, United States...). 5. Finally, we must receive aid from international organizations.

[Nicaud] What aid have you already received?

[Shevardnadze] The most important aid we have received comes from the EC with 70 million European Currency Units for food and grain purchases. The United States has promised us \$30 million to buy wheat. Germany is also giving us aid. But this is not enough, especially because the international organizations have not helped us much.

[Nicaud] Does the crisis not also stem partly from the halt in Russian oil supplies?

[Shevardnadze] Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan are helping us greatly by supplying us with gas and giving us credit. As for Russian oil, preliminary talks must be started as quickly as possible to reach a cooperation agreement. But the Russian Supreme Soviet has always opposed such an agreement until the Abkhaz conflict is settled.

Army Prepares Offensive; Shevardnadze Seeks Peace

PM2007102393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Jul 93 p 3

[Petr Karapetyan report: "Sukhumi Council of Ministers Chairman Resigns. Eduard Shevardnadze Continues To Gamble on Peaceful Settlement to Abkhaz Problem"]

[Text] As was to be expected, the ultimatum from Major General Georgiy Karkarashvili, Georgian defense minister, in which he promised to "stitch up" the front right through to Gudauta itself, failed to scare the Abkhaz. Having suffered a relative failure in their latest attempt to take Sukhumi, they have dug in at the strategically important centers of Akhalshehi, Kaman, and Shroma. The Abkhaz Defense Ministry in Gudauta claims that these villages are still controlled by Abkhaz armed forces.

It is quite obvious that before heading for Gudauta—we must assume that Karkarashvili is not thinking of going back on his word—the Georgians will have to fight off Akhalshehi, Kaman, and Shroma. Otherwise, the fate of Sukhumi could be said to be sealed. That is why, if Georgian sources are to be believed, their army launched an offensive against Shroma and Akhalshehi 16 July.

But, on the whole, the initiative—both military and political—is with Abkhazia. Following the failure of the latest, 14 July, attempt to achieve a cease-fire in the conflict zone, representatives of the Abkhaz side elucidated their positions somewhat and hinted that, unlike Georgia, they are not overestimating the UN role in resolving the conflict. At a Moscow press conference Andrey Dzhergeniya, the personal envoy of the head of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet, noted that the UN Security Council issued recommendations in January which "rehashed the information supplied by Georgian representative Sandro Kavtsadze." Whereas the Abkhaz side's position was not taken into account, Dzhergeniya stressed.

Will Abkhazia remain part of Georgia or will it become sovereign? The only way of answering that question will be a referendum held after a cease-fire. Stating this, Dzhergeniya noted that talks with Georgia will be directly dependent on the referendum results.

So Abkhazia has made its current position quite clear. Judging by recent information from Tbilisi, some amendments to Georgian policy in the conflict zone are possible—Eduard Shevardnadze, the chairman of parliament, has relieved Tamaz Nadareishvili, chairman of the pro-Georgian Abkhaz Government and of the Defense Council, of his duties. The official story is that this is in connection with his deteriorating health. But I think there are far more grounds for taking account of the fact that Tamaz Nadareishvili has been insisting exclusively on solving the Abkhaz problem by force.

So the supporters of the Georgian "war party" have suffered a tangible loss, while Shevardnadze—if we also recall Tengiz Kitovani's resignation as Georgian defense minister—continues to gamble on a peaceful settlement to the Abkhaz problem.

Abkhaz Frontline Said 'Stabilized'

*PM1907203593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
20 Jul 93 First Edition p 2*

[Besik Urigashvili report: "Military Confrontation in Abkhazia—Situation on Front Lines Deadlocked, Efforts To Achieve Peace Settlement Continue"]

[Text] As a result of recent fighting in Abkhazia the frontline has been stabilized. Georgian Government forces have partly succeeded in regaining their lost positions near the villages of Shroma and Akhalsheni in the mountainous territory 12 km northwest of Sukhumi.

The intensified fighting throughout July, as a result of which more people were killed than in the whole of the rest of the conflict, confirmed observers in the thought that neither of the sides is capable of obtaining a decisive advantage at this stage of the war.

Possibly, this circumstance will give an impetus to the negotiating process again and make it more productive. At any rate, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Pastukhov, the Russian mediator in the search for a settlement, has displayed unprecedented activity in recent days, meeting virtually every day with the leaders of the opposing sides in the hope of finding points of contact.

True, these efforts are exploited by both the Georgian and the Abkhaz sides mainly for propaganda purposes, whereby the participants in the negotiating process in turn assert that the opposite side refuses to sign the cease-fire agreement protocol, and consequently, does not desire peace.

At any rate, at Sunday's meeting between Pastukhov and Shevardnadze in Sukhumi, to which Russia's representative journeyed from Gudauta, once again no concrete

cease-fire agreement was achieved. The demands advanced by the Gudauta side, in particular the full withdrawal of Georgian troops from the territory of Abkhazia and the restoration of the prewar administration—and all this, moreover, not as a consequence but as a condition of a cease-fire—is not to the liking of the Georgian leadership, which demands a cease-fire without preconditions. Everything else can be resolved in the course of the ensuing negotiating process with the participation of all the interested sides and mediators.

"Judging by the proposals presented to me by Boris Pastukhov on his return from Gudauta, the Abkhaz side is still in a rather aggressive frame of mind and is advancing conditions that we find unacceptable," Eduard Shevardnadze stated Monday [19 July] morning. "In such a situation we have proposed a more global option for solving the problem—the creation in Abkhazia of a demilitarized zone under the control of the relevant UN and CSCE structures with the indispensable participation of Russia. If an agreement in principle is reached on this question, we can also talk of withdrawing troops and disarming local formations, creating effective monitoring structures, the return of refugees—in short, the beginning of a normal peace process."

Meanwhile, in connection with the serious illness of Tamaz Nadareishvili, the head of the Georgian administration in Abkhazia, Shevardnadze has appointed Zhiuli Shartava to this post. In the past Shartava was a prominent figure in the Georgian Communist Party establishment.

Shartava is known in Georgia as an energetic organizer, and, like many ex-communists from the nomenklatura elite, he is distinguished by political pragmatism.

In conversation with IZVESTIYA's correspondent Shartava stated this he sees his task above all as establishing peace in Abkhazia and that he will accept only a political solution to this conflict.

'Positional War' Continues on Gumista Front

*LD2007092393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0907
GMT 20 Jul 93*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi July 20 TASS—Positional war continues on the Gumista front, according to Georgian and Abkhazian sources. The press service of the Abkhazian Parliament said that Georgian troops are using artillery and mortars to shell Abkhazian positions, but there have been no positional changes on the front.

According to the press centre of the Georgian troops stationed in Abkhazia, "the Georgian Army offensive in the Shroma-Akhalsheni direction is proceeding as scheduled." The centre reported that Sukhumi came under Abkhazian artillery fire last night.

The Abkhazian parliamentary press service said that Georgian artillery has been shelling the villages of Eshera and Psyrtskha and the town of Novy Afon since 3 a.m. on Tuesday [20 Jul], using Grad missile launchers and Sau-125 self-propelled missile units. The press service said the Georgian side is also using cassette shells with phosphorus-thermal charges.

Cabinet Decree Censors Reports From Abkhazia
AU2007132693 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 14 Jul 93 p 4

["Decree of the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers on Urgent Measures To Protect Military and State Secrets in the Mass Media in Connection With the Declaration of Martial Law in the Abkhazian Region"]

[Text] In order to prevent the leakage of military and state secrets during the coverage of the military situation by the mass media, the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers decrees:

1. To entrust the Georgian Information Agency with preparing and releasing daily selections of materials reflecting military actions and to communicate (publish) them in the mass media under the rubric "The Georgian Information Agency Informs."
2. If necessary, war correspondents of the mass media may be accredited in the zone of military actions only with the permission of the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense.
3. To communicate (publish) materials connected with military actions only with the permission of the Ministry of Defense Press Service or the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Secrets in the Mass Media attached to the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers.
4. During the preparation of materials intended for a wide audience, the heads of the press bodies, television, broadcasting, publishing houses, and other mass media are to strictly adhere to the requirements concerning the list of information forbidden for publication that is published by the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Secrets.
5. The Republic of Georgia Information and Intelligence Service and the Republic of Georgia Procurator's Office are to react to every fact of divulgence of military and state secrets.

T. Sigua, prime minister of the Republic of Georgia.

Official Views 'Ethnic Cleansing' by Abkhazians
AU1907185193 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 15 Jul 93 p 1

[Interview with Temur Chilachava, head of the Department of Information, Analysis, and Mutual Relations With the Administrative Bodies of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic State Committee for Human

Rights and Interethnic Relations, by SG special correspondents in Sukhumi; date not given: "Temur Chilachava: 'There Are Now Only 2,000 Georgians Living on the Other Side of the Gumista....'"]

[Text] SG Dossier: Temur Chilachava was born in Gulripshi in 1958. He graduated from the Mechanical-Mathematical Faculty of Moscow State University. He defended his candidate thesis there. He worked in the Abkhazian State University [AGU] and then in the Sukhumi branch of Tbilisi State University. He is an associate professor and head of the Department of Applied Mathematics. He has published about 30 scientific works. At present, he is head of the Department of Information, Analysis, and Mutual Relations With the Administrative Bodies of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic State Committee for Human Rights and Interethnic Relations.

[Chilachava] Our department is working in three directions. First, the documenting of all violations of human rights since the start of the war on the territory of Abkhazia. This involves drawing up a full list of peaceful citizens who have been shot or killed or who have disappeared without trace and also a list of citizens who wish to leave the territory controlled by the Abkhazian side.

Second, the feeding of information into the computer and the compilation of updates on refugees and forcibly displaced persons. There are three places on the territory of Abkhazia where they are being registered, namely in Sukhumi, Ochamchire, and Gali. There are 9,000 refugees in Sukhumi, 6,000 in Ochamchire, and 13,500 in Gali. These are approximate figures. There are now approximately 150,000 refugees throughout the whole of Georgia. A full list has been compiled of regions on our territory where it is dangerous for Georgians to live, that is to say, regions where the Abkhazians are conducting ethnic cleansing.

According to our information, 32,000 citizens of Georgian nationality there used to live on the other side of the Gumista [River—an area controlled by Abkhazian side]. Many have left. However, some 3,000-4,000 peaceful citizens have been slaughtered. There are now only 2,000 Georgians living on the other side of the Gumista. One can imagine what fate awaits them. I am deeply convinced that, when humanitarian aid was delivered to Tkvarcheli and Gagra by the Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Interethnic Relations, it was possible to have brought out at least these 2,000 persons. However, it seems that they were forgotten. People may say that, in this way, we could have been promoting ethnic cleansing. However, after all, human life should come first. I personally accompanied the convoy carrying 20 tonnes of humanitarian aid for the Georgian population in Gagra. We did all we could to ensure that this aid reached the Georgians as, you yourselves understand, one cannot rely on the Abkhazian side in this matter. I saw in what conditions our compatriots were living there. You can believe me, we did not manage to see anything good there.

Third, the gathering of information from the press that comes from the opposing side. The Abkhazian side, unlike ours, has launched considerable forces into ideological propaganda. There are special people who are engaged in bribing Moscow Television and someone is disseminating false information. This entire machine is working on the war. In Gagra, I saw a poster that proclaimed: "No to Peace." We have only recently started to attach considerable significance to the war. I have in mind supplying the Army with food and ideology and propaganda.

However, our main work is to draw up a map of ethnic cleansing of Georgians in the conflict zone.

Vice Premier Denies Split Within Abkhaz Leadership

*PM1907132593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
17 Jul 93 First Edition p 1*

[Inga Prelovskaya report: "Abkhazia Ready To Step Up Peace Talks With Georgia"]

[Text] A press conference in Moscow on Friday [16 July], in which A. Dzhergeniya, Abkhazian delegation head at the talks in Moscow, and S. Bagapsh, first deputy chairman of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers, took part, was devoted to the prospects of an end to the war and a political settlement in Abkhazian-Georgian relations.

Dzhergeniya expressed the Abkhazian leadership's viewpoint by saying that it wants to switch to the language of negotiation. In this connection Abkhazian military units have been ordered not to engage in active combat operations. However, over the last few days accusations have appeared in the mass media regarding the Abkhazian side's unyielding stance, which is preventing a compromise from being reached. That is not true. Although the Abkhazian leadership has insisted on the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of Georgian troops from its territory since the beginning of the war, the draft agreement that has been prepared does contain a concession. What is this? It is proposed to make an Abkhazian troop regiment responsible for controlling the territory west of the Gumista River to the Psou, and Georgian Internal Troops subunits responsible for the area east of the Gumista to the Inguri.

S. Bagapsh addressed the press conference and said that the rumors spread by some mass media of a split in the Abkhazian leadership and, in particular, of its disagreements with V. Ardzinba are incorrect and that there is no split. There is community of views regarding the future of the Abkhazian people and their shared hopes of a most speedy end to the war.

Shevardnadze on 'More Positive' Russian Dialogue

*LD1907131693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1259
GMT 19 Jul 93*

[By GIA correspondent - TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi July 19 TASS— "Dialogue with the Russian side is taking on a more positive nature", Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze told Georgian Radio in an interview.

He described negotiations with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov as "useful and desirable". Although no concrete results were achieved, the Georgian leader believes that "more of an understanding has appeared in Russian politics. There are clear signs showing that Russia has made its choice. This is felt not only among government officials, but also among part of Russian Supreme Soviet deputies. Politicians are beginning to recognize that Russia needs a stable Georgia, and that equal, friendly relations fit both sides".

Shevardnadze is convinced that ending the Abkhazian conflict is in Russia's interests. "The conflict in Abkhazia is explosive material, a flame which threatens to blow over Russia".

Two Russian Soldiers Killed in Clash in Kutaisi

*LD1907145893 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in
Georgian 1300 GMT 19 Jul 93*

[Text] Very sad news has come from Kutaisi. Yesterday, at about 1900 hours, Russian soldiers blocked the road to move out combat equipment from Russian Military Camp No. 7 at Mikia Street in Kutaisi, effectively taking the civilians hostage.

Despite an agreement to transfer combat equipment to the Georgian Army, there had been an attempt on 14 July to remove equipment. Since then, representatives of Georgian army units and military police have been on patrol outside the military camp. Yesterday, our patrols tried to prevent the removal of combat equipment from the town, but the Russian military refused to even talk to them, and the convoy began to move. They damaged several cars and buses in their way. At the intersection of Mikia Street and Chavchavadze Prospekt, they ran over a parked Zhiguli. The owner of the car, Valeriy Akhvlediani, managed to run away from the car but soon afterward died of a massive heart attack.

In Chavchavadze Prospekt, the convoy of tanks and combat vehicles was blocked by a 30-year-old Batumi resident, Tamaz Mamaladze. The Russian military shot and wounded him with a machine gun. At the moment, Mamaladze is in serious condition in the intensive care unit of the Kutaisi Republican Hospital.

In an exchange of fire, a Georgian guardsman Valeriy Kapanadze was slightly wounded, and two Russian soldiers died.

As for the combat vehicles, the Russian military fought their way through the town to Military Camp No. 35, where they left the equipment.

The situation in the town is tense today. However, there have not been any attempts by the Russian military to aggravate the situation.

Four Servicemen Kidnapped in Sagaredzho

LD1907164893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Four Russian servicemen were kidnapped and taken to an unknown destination overnight, the SNARK agency has been told by the press center of the group of Russian troops in Georgia. Armed persons broke into the servicemen's apartments in Sagaredzho near Tbilisi and took them away. The press center says that the attack was probably carried out by employees of the Georgian information and intelligence gathering service.

Shevardnadze, German Officials Discuss Aid Issues

LD1907163493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Monitored in progress]

[Text] ...The German ambassador for his part assured Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze on his readiness to help Georgia whenever needed and in resolving every pressing issue. Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze noted that there has been progress in Russo-Georgian negotiations. Although a breakthrough has not occurred, there has been general improvement, he said. The head of state expressed his gratitude to the German leadership and Chancellor Kohl in particular, whose speech at the G-7 meeting gave a big impetus to the West in getting interested in the processes under way in Georgia. This has made Russia assess these events more properly.

It was mentioned at the meeting that the UN planning group [as heard] is arriving in Georgia today. One of the members of this group is a German officer. This fact once again implies Germany's support of Georgia. In addition, experts will arrive from Germany on Saturday and they will put up a special antenna that will enable 12,000 Georgian telephone subscribers to get in touch with Germany and the whole world.

Mr. Guenther Dalhoff then introduced to Mr. Shevardnadze Mr. (Noelhoff), a representative of the Bundesbank, and Mr. (Patte), a representative of the police of the Ministry of the Interior of Germany, who are on a working visit in Tbilisi. Mr. (Noelhoff) noted that his aim is to start working together with the Georgian side in implementing those agreements that were signed during Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Germany. It has been decided that a commission of technical assistance will be established. This is an organizational body which will discuss proposed projects in order to use the sum earmarked by Germany on practical business. It has also

been decided that the Ministry of Agriculture will take the bulk of the responsibility. This does not exclude the importance of the private sector and the role it has to play.

Mr. (Patte), who has been in Tbilisi seven weeks, termed as businesslike and fruitful his visit to Georgia and his contacts with the political life of Georgia and the intelligence service. He expressed his ideas and gave advice on improving their work.

Head of State Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze noted that everything, including the state, itself is in a transitional period and, therefore, experienced experts' advice and the sharing of their experience are of crucial importance for Georgia. He thanked the guests for such a businesslike attitude and noted that everything that Germany is doing for Georgia will undoubtedly remain in Georgia's history.

Shevardnadze Dismisses Military Commissar

AU2007132793 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 14 Jul 93 p 1

["Order of the Georgian Head of State on the Release of Colonel T. Papava From the Post of Republic of Georgia Military Commissar"]

[Text] To release Colonel Tornike Papava from the post of Republic of Georgia military commissar on health grounds and transfer him to the jurisdiction of the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense Personnel Department.

[Signed] Eduard Shevardnadze.

Tbilisi, 12 July 1993.

South Ossetian Leader Views Political Solution

PM1907130793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Yelena Musatova report: "South Ossetia: A Year Without War"]

[Text] Tskhinvali—A year ago, 14 July 1992, peace-keeping forces arrived on South Ossetian soil to end the three-year-long bloodshed. The destroyed homes have not yet been rebuilt and the communications system is not working. People still grieve for their dead. Many people do not have enough to live on. But the main thing is that there is no war any more.

A North Ossetian Government delegation has arrived in the South Ossetian capital of Tskhinvali in honor of the anniversary of the end of hostilities and the introduction of peacekeeping troops. A thousands-strong rally was held at the city stadium, and piles of flowers and wreaths were placed on the graves of war victims buried in the grounds of No. 5 School.

South Ossetian Supreme Soviet Chairman T. Kulumbekov met with journalists in the South Ossetian Supreme Soviet building, where traces of explosions are still visible.

As he put it, the end of hostilities is undoubtedly down to the peacekeeping forces, which include Ossetian, Georgian, and Russian battalions. As a result, conditions have been created over the past year for a political solution to the problems between South Ossetia and Georgia.

The main problem is defining the status of South Ossetia. Its leaders have repeatedly appealed to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, President Yeltsin, and the international community to recognize South Ossetia's right to decide its fate itself.

"Our people spoke out unambiguously in the referendum," T. Kulumbekov stated. "More than 99 percent of voters voted for autonomy for the Republic of South Ossetia and its reunification with Russia. Unfortunately, this matter has still not been resolved."

The same view was expressed at the congress of the Ossetian people that was held recently. The resolve was voiced not to deviate from the charted course, however hard it may be.

As for postwar difficulties connected with economic collapse, interrupted rail communications, and the lack of money to pay wages, pensions, benefits, and suchlike, the Supreme Soviet chairman is sure that South Ossetia will be able to organize normal life, provided it is not prevented from so doing.

'Zviadists' Hold Supreme Council Session

AU1907134093 Tbilisi DRONI in Georgian 14 Jul 93 p 1

[IPRINDA report: "They're Eating and Waiting"]

[Text] On 9-10 July, a session of the former Supreme Council was held in the Supreme Court building in Zugdidi that was attended by 67 deputies, including: Kote Pirtskhalava, the Petriashvili brothers, Mukhran Machavariani, Taniel Gelantia, Nemo Burchuladze, Zaur Kobalia, Valter Shurghaia, Nugzar Molodinashvili, Irina Taliashvili, Amiran Kaladze, and others. Representatives of the "Round Table" from different regions of Georgia were also present. On the instructions of the ex-president [Zviad Gamsakhurdia], the session was presided over by Zaur Kobalia, chairman of the National Disobedience Committee. There were eight questions on the agenda. A statement was unanimously adopted at the

session that a new stage had begun on the path of the restoration of the legitimate authorities. The political and economic course of the current authorities was naturally criticized at the session. On 9 July, Loti Kobalia [leader of the armed formation supporting ex-President Gamsakhurdia] attended the session but left at midday and met with Irakli Tsereteli [leader of the National Independence Party] in his headquarters.

The Abkhazian question was discussed at a closed meeting of the session. The remaining seven questions were discussed at open meetings. In particular, amendments and changes to Articles 17, 121, and 124 of the Georgian Constitution were introduced (these articles concerned the procedure for appointing the procurator general and the military prosecutor and the introduction of the post of military governor).

A decision was adopted on the establishment of decorations. The orders of Kaikhosro Choloqashvili and Merab Kostava and a medal for bravery were established.

A number of appeals were adopted at the session: to the Georgian nation, refugees, international organizations and foreign parliaments, the peoples of the Caucasus, and so forth.

Bidzina Giorgibiani read an appeal to international organizations in which it was demanded that the current authorities be tried by an international court.

As we informed you, Jemal Gamakharia spoke about the Abkhazian question at a closed session. We do not know what was specifically discussed.

Each day of the session was followed by a banquet. According to "evil gossip," everything was in plentiful supply.

On 11 July, at 1330 [1030 GMT], a rally was held in Zugdidi that was attended by 200-250 persons. The rally was led by Vakhtang Chitava. Speeches were delivered by the most respected Zviadists: Mukhran Machavariani, Valter Shurghaia, and one of the Petriashvili brothers.

They congratulated the Zugdidians on the restoration of the legal authorities in Zugdidi and Zugdidi rayon and reassured those assembled that the legal authorities would soon be restored in Tbilisi also. It was said that the next session would be chaired by Zviad Gamsakhurdia himself.

The traditional calls for the overthrow of the current authorities were heard at the rally.

Estonia**Narva Council To Discuss Referendum Results 22 Jul***LD1907195693 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 19 Jul 93*

[Text] We begin the Paevakaja [Echo of the Day—title of evening news broadcast] from northeast Estonia.

The referendum results will be presented to the Narva town council on this coming Thursday [22 July], it was reported to the ETA [ESTONIAN TELEGRAPH AGENCY] by Election Commission member Vladimir Mishin. The town council will begin to discuss the referendum results on the same day. The Election Commission has counted and sealed the ballot papers. All the ballot papers of the persons who participated in the referendum have been, in the words of Mishin, inspected. No irregularities have been discovered. To the question why there was such a long wait until the publication of the results, Mishin replied that possible complaints were being awaited. In his words, until now no reproaches or complaints had been presented to the commission.

According to preliminary data by the organizers, 33,816 people participated in the Narva referendum, or 54.8 percent of those who were entitled to. Ninety-seven percent replied in the affirmative to the question, whether you wish a national territorial autonomy.

Supreme Court To Rule on Legality*PM2007095993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 Jul 93 p 1*

[Article by Sergey Karkhanin: "Politicians Against Their Will. The Estonian Supreme Court Will Examine the Results of the Referenda in Narva and Sillamae"]

[Text] In fact, the actual vote in the two cities in the northeast of the republic did not bring any surprises. As one might have expected, approximately 98 percent of those who received ballot papers voted for autonomous status. As predicted, politicians in Tallinn, declaring that the referendum was procedurally flawed, calling its legality into question, particularly stressed that the results of the plebiscite are in no way binding on anyone and therefore have no political significance. Estonian government spokesman Indrek Tarand believes that the "idea of autonomy did not find any particular support. A considerable proportion of the populace in Narva sees cooperation on the basis of Estonian laws rather than autonomy as the way out of the problems."

The majority of the voters, according to I. Tarand, voted not so much for autonomy, which "they have no notion of," as against their serious economic position. According to the Estonian government spokesman, the referendum was also detrimental to the city's economy, since "foreign capital will not come to a place of political instability."

At any rate, Tallinn has decided that the republic Supreme Court will determine on 20 July whether the referendum was legal. In turn, Vladimir Chuykin, chairman of the Narva City Soviet, announced that if the plebiscite is deemed illegal, the city authorities will appeal to the International Court.

As is known, CSCE representatives advised the inhabitants of Narva and Sillamae against raising the question of national-territorial autonomy, since, according to Council of Europe experts, the amendments made by the Estonian parliament to the text of the law on foreigners are entirely satisfactory. Diplomats from the Russian foreign policy department did not agree with this. Although the Russian Foreign Ministry has not yet provided an official evaluation of the referendum results, your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent learned from unofficial sources that the ministry, while noting that problems associated with the referendum remain Estonia's internal affair, particularly stresses that it took place in an atmosphere of calm. Although, the Tallinn authorities did launch a campaign of "pressure" prior to the plebiscite, and, perhaps, as a result, not all the inhabitants turned out to vote. It is important that the Estonian Government heed the signal given by the referendum results and find a way of arranging a dialogue with Russians both in Narva and Sillamae and in other cities of the republic.

It is difficult not to agree with I. Tarand on one thing: Russians living in northeast Estonia have actually gotten involved in the political struggle against their will. The warning strike in Narva a year ago demonstrated that people do not intend to quietly accept the economic stranglehold placed on them by the discriminatory laws. The situation has deteriorated further since then: Unemployment has reached 50 percent and it is even harder to teach children in schools in Russian.

So it was not the "hand of Moscow" at all organizing the protest movement in Narva. It stemmed from people's natural desire to have work and a roof over their heads and not to have to worry about their future. The Narva Russians will certainly not be abandoning this path. The referendum results are convincing confirmation of this.

Estonian Radio Defies Parliament on Broadcasts*LD1907165693 Tallinn Radio Estonia in English 1520 GMT 19 Jul 93*

[Text] Estonian Radio's board agreed Friday [16 July] to disregard a decision by the parliament's Cultural Commission to stop its foreign language broadcasts. The radio's board is determined to continue broadcasting as much as it did before, but a concrete concept for reforming the foreign language programs will not be worked out until 1 October.

Lithuania

Brazauskas: Russian Compensation 'Key Issue'

WS2007114293 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1249 GMT 19 Jul 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 289]

[Text] 19 July 1993—Algirdas Brazauskas declared that the question of the compensation for the damage will be the key issue during the negotiations between Lithuania and Russia. Russia has inherited all legal rights of the USSR, he said and thus must be rendered responsible for all the offenses caused to Lithuania and its people from 1940 to 1991. In his conversation with a reporter of the "Free Europe", President denied the statements of the opposition that Lithuania will agree with concessions for Russia for a short-time benefit, including a compensation for the damage. In Algirdas Brazauskas words, the compromises in the negotiations are possible from the either party, but nevertheless Lithuania will stick to its demands to get what she is entitled to. Algirdas Brazauskas has mentioned his letter addressed to Boris Yeltsin on this issue. It states the following: "Only one month and a half remains till the end of the complete Russian army withdrawal which has been going smoothly so far, according to the agenda agreed upon. I believe that signing of an agreement on the army withdrawal in this situation becomes absolutely unnecessary. The future remaining issues to be resolved as such as compensation for the damage and for the property of the Lithuanian army. I too well comprehend the importance of such agreements as on social guarantees for the former Russian officers as well as Russian army withdrawn from Germany via Lithuania and other". President drew attention to the fact that the claims on the compensation for the damage caused to Lithuania along with that for the property of the Lithuanian army come first. Those claims, said Algirdas Brazauskas, have been expressed on the referendum in the June of the last year. I will always raise these issues myself and will likewise strive that they will be of the key importance in negotiations between the two governments. President said he acknowledges a hard economic situation of Russia, but Lithuania is facing not less serious hardships. But he believes that agreements are on the way. "The damage caused to us is too evident and unarguable", he stressed. Algirdas Brazauskas noted that his letter to Boris Yeltsin includes the proposal on a free-trade agreement between Lithuania and Russia. In President's opinion, it could be shortly signed by the heads of the governments.

Russian Troops Sent To Help With Withdrawal

PM1907141793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

["Own Information" report: "Russian Soldiers Go to Lithuania To Withdraw Troops"]

[Text] The Russian Defense Ministry has agreed with Lithuania to send loading teams to Lithuania to ensure the withdrawal of the Russian troops, its press service reports.

This kind of agreement has not been reached with Latvia and Estonia. However, Russia's Northwestern Group of Forces has 48 percent of its required number of enlisted men and NCO's [noncommissioned officers] in Lithuania, and the figure stands at around 28 percent and 41 percent in Estonia and Latvia respectively. There is virtually no one to load up the combat hardware, weapons, and military property, nor is there anyone to guard it.

Landsbergis Interviewed on Russian 'Pressure'

LD1907153893 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Excerpts] [Announcer] A news conference was held today by the Seimas opposition. We talked to Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the Seimas opposition.

[Begin recording] [Announcer] Can you give us some facts confirming that Russia is making efforts to increase its influence on Lithuania.

[Landsbergis] We have heard all the statements made by Russian politicians concerning the Baltic states in general. We also see pressure on Lithuania, using the economic and power engineering levers in order that decisions and the stance adopted by Lithuania—and not only in the economic sphere alone—could be placed under Russia's control.

The new Lithuanian Government, formed after the elections in the autumn, failed to defend the position, namely, when there is no mutual settling of accounts then both sides are in debt to each other. The idea that Lithuania as a state is Russia's debtor was hoisted on Lithuania. Meanwhile, when Lithuanian goods and services remain unpaid, this is not considered Russia's debt to Lithuania.

This is politically damaging, and it is damaging in the sphere of propaganda when once again it is suggested to Lithuania that Lithuania cannot survive on its own.

In reality, Lithuania has not yet reached a balanced situation concerning economic contacts and relations between East and West. The heel toward the East is too great and the partner there is unreliable. Russia doesn't give a damn about failure to fulfill an agreement or failure to fulfill a promise on supplies. Meanwhile it is possible to demand payments from Lithuania, both concerning the sums and the terms that were determined by Russia alone.

Our government is adapting to this situation and is making compromises. We are concerned that this will increase the appetite of Russian economic and other politicians, and that in this way it will be possible to turn

Lithuania into an economic and political supplement of Russia, i.e., at least a satellite.

This is not the objective and is not the path along which Lithuania has been proceeding for three years in aspiring for equal rights and independence.

Today there is the possibility of losing the levers for independence and for Kaliningrad Oblast or supplying power to this oblast according to the prices that would compensate the prices for gas sold to us. If the Lithuanian Government decides to hand over the gas pipeline as a payment for goods it will be a bad policy for the future of Lithuania.

[Announcer] Much has been said about the unity of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Has enough been done to reinforce this unity?

[Landsbergis] I think not enough. Some things are being done in the sphere of economic cooperation and some improvement can be seen there. [passage omitted] However, political cooperation seems to me to be declining. Our states support one another very rarely on the issues which are specific to them in the sphere of reinforcing independence and withstanding pressure from the East.

Sometimes we can see that there is a greater mutual support between Latvia and Estonia, while Lithuania's actions in this sphere are less vigorous. This I regard as an inadequacy of our foreign policy, and I am critical of this. [passage omitted]

So far we have not noticed that people are more satisfied, in fact, the contrary. Political awareness is returning after a certain period of depression and disappointment, and this awareness is critical in relation to the policy pursued by the ruling party. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Landsbergis Concerned Over Moscow's 'Imperial Designs'

LD1907143793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1415 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vldas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius July 19 TASS—Leader of the opposition in the Lithuanian Seimas Vytautas Landsbergis, former president of the Lithuanian Parliament, told a briefing here today he is concerned that "Russia regards Lithuania's debt for energy resources as a state debt and demands that it be repaid with Lithuanian state property".

Lithuania owes over 40 million U.S. dollars for natural gas deliveries to St. Petersburg concern Lentransgaz. The concern warned Lithuania that unless the debt is repaid on schedule, gas deliveries will be cut considerably. A delegation from the concern visited Lithuania last week and proposed that joint ventures to operate gas pipelines

and the Mazeikiai oil refining complex be formed in Lithuania on mutually advantageous terms. It is precisely this circumstance that caused the opposition leader's "profound concern". He views the simple wish for economic cooperation expressed by Russian enterprises as a manifestation of "Moscow's perfidy and imperial designs".

Landsbergis said "Russia's attempts to split the front of the Baltic countries have already yielded initial results". He noted that "fewer items on relations of Latvia and Estonia with Russia have been published by the Lithuanian press of late", and that "Lithuania refrains from stating its views on quite clear matters".

Prime Minister on Trade Agreement With Russia

LD1907161593 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] In a telephone conversation today, Adolfas Slezevicius, prime minister of Lithuania, and Sergey Shakhrai, deputy prime minister of Russia, expressed mutual interest in signing an agreement on free trade between Russia and Lithuania. The head of the Lithuanian Government announced this in an interview with the national radio. Slezevicius stressed that the government of Lithuania is pursuing an active economic policy, the aim of which is to ensure favorable conditions for trade and economic relations with all states.

The prime minister announced that a delegation from Kaliningrad Oblast is expected today. As a result of this visit an agreement on free trade should be signed between Lithuania and Kaliningrad Oblast.

Slezevicius described Lithuania's receipt of a draft agreement on free trade with the EEC as a matter of great significance. He said that this testifies to the fact that Lithuania is continuing to integrate into the economic space of Western Europe. An active economic policy in all directions must become the basis for the stability of our economy, Slezevicius said. The Lithuanian Government continues active preparatory work for the signing of free trade agreements with Latvia and Estonia. On 4-5 August an agreement on free trade with Ukraine is to be signed in Kiev.

Cultural Cooperation Agreement Signed With Venezuela

LD1907201793 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 1900 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Lithuania and Venezuela signed an agreement on cultural cooperation in the Venezuelan capital Caracas today. For Venezuela it is the first treaty on cultural cooperation with an East European state and for Lithuania this is the first interstate treaty with a Latin American country after the restoration of independence in 1920 [as heard].